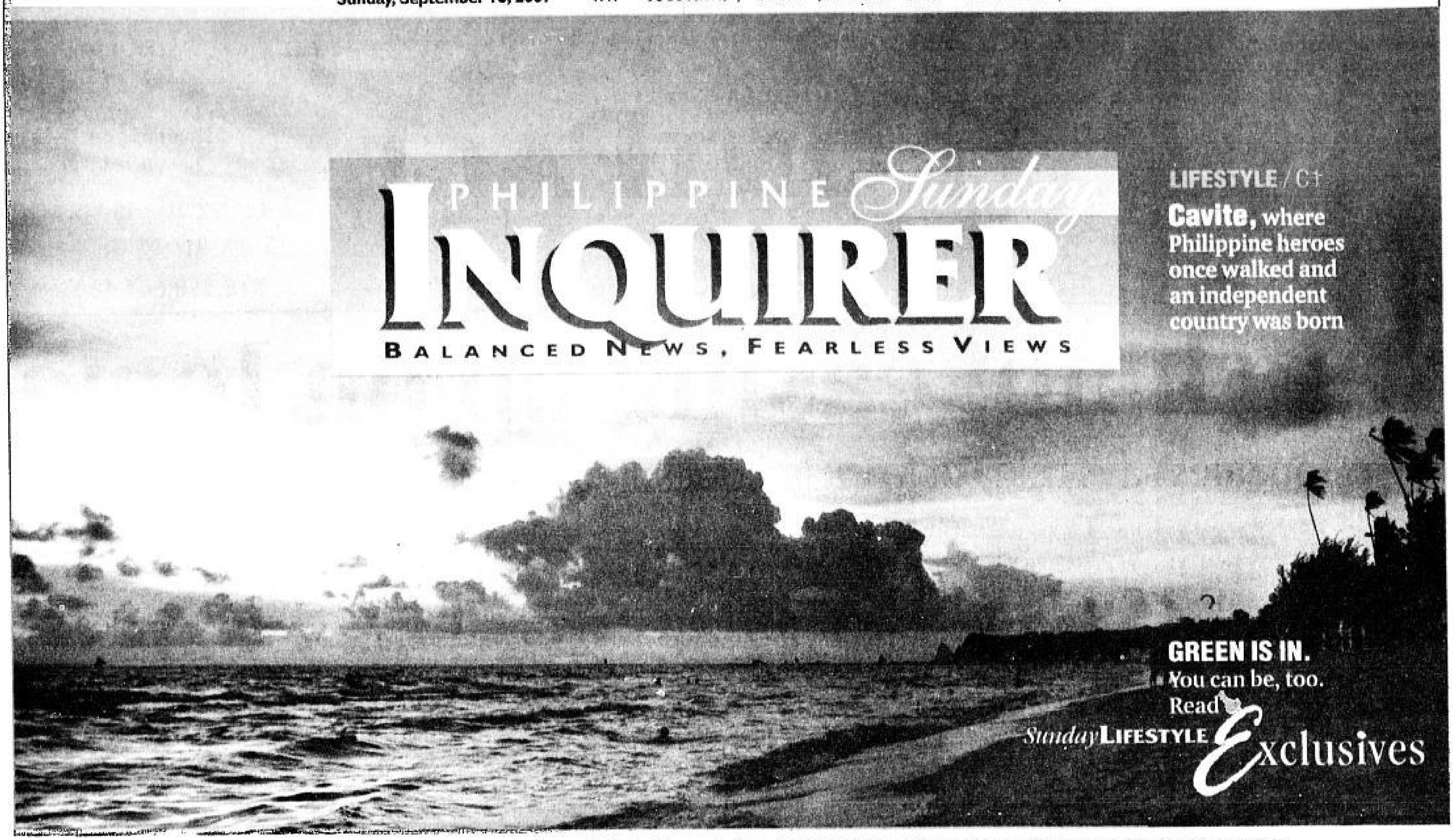
Sunday, September 16, 2007 ★★ 16 sections / Vol. 22 / No. 280 P20 website: www.inquirer.net

PHILIPPINE *Sunday* INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS



LIFESTYLE / C1
Cavite, where Philippine heroes once walked and an independent country was born

GREEN IS IN.
You can be, too.
Read *Sunday* LIFESTYLE Exclusives

THE SKY turns orange and clouds darken to a thick gray as the sun sets over the resort island of Boracay in Aklan. Photo was taken early this month by INQUIRER Business editor Raul Marcelo.

Who's the mystery man?

JDV son to reveal person's name in proper forum

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

A "MYSTERY MAN" IS PART of the cast of characters behind the $329-million contract awarded to the Chinese telecommunications firm ZTE Corp. to build the National Broadband Network (NBN), the INQUIRER has learned.

But businessman Jose "Joey" de Venecia III, son of the Speaker, told the INQUIRER he would reveal the person's identity only if asked in the proper legal forum.

De Venecia, cofounder of the losing project proponent Amsterdam Holdings Inc., is set to testify in the Senate's investigation of the ZTE deal at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday.

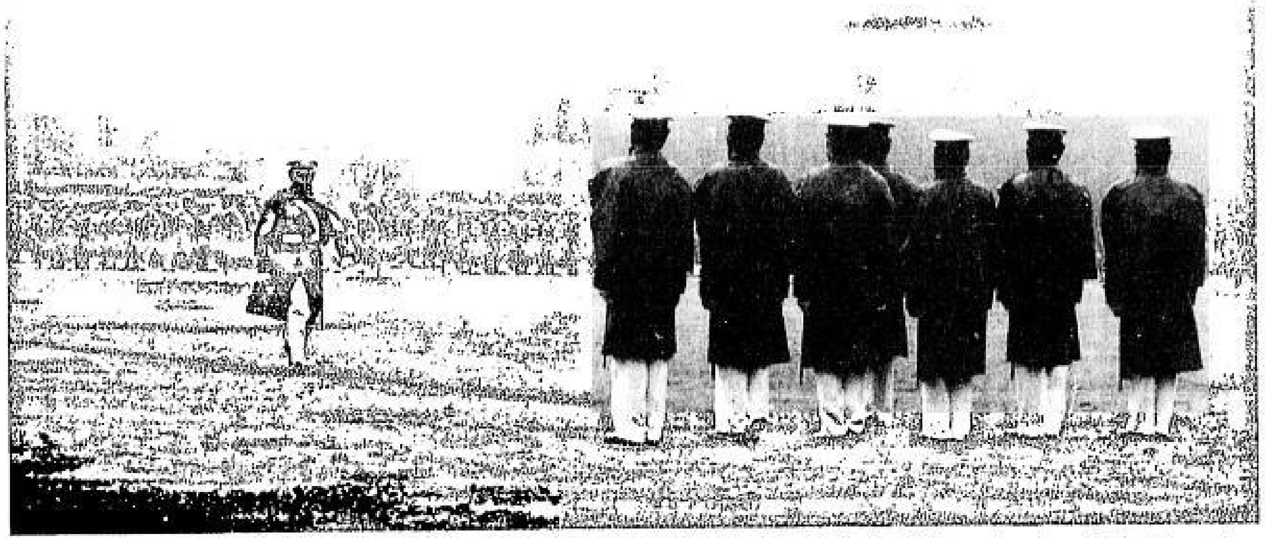
"That's a loaded question. I will answer that in the proper forum," he said in a phone interview the other day when asked about the person's identity.

De Venecia said the influential person was present during his meeting with Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos at Wack-Wack Golf and Country Club sometime in March.

He said he had not yet named this person in his interviews with the media. He refused to give clues to the identity or affiliation of the person.

De Venecia said the man came to the "reconciliation meeting" arranged by Transportation Secretary Leandro

WHO'S THE/ A8



FOG AND RAIN on a Saturday morning in Fort del Pilar, Baguio City, compel the Philippine Military Academy Cadet Corps to don their gray raincoats during a military parade in honor of successful and controversial "mistah," Transportation and Communications Secretary Leandro Mendoza.

VINCENT CABREZA/INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON

Mendoza wants to talk, seeks SC okay

By Vincent Cabreza
Inquirer Northern Luzon

FORT DEL PILAR, BAGUIO CITY —Transportation and Communications Secretary Leandro Mendoza yesterday said he actually wanted to explain the National Broadband Network (NBN) deal and was not using the sub judice rule to whitewash it.

"I want to talk," Mendoza told reporters after receiving an achievement award from the Philippine Military Academy. However, he said, a contempt charge was preventing him from explaining his side of the deal, which had given rise to a graft suit filed against him before the Office of the Ombudsman.

He said the Department of Transportation and Communications would ask the Supreme Court to allow him to discuss the controversial $329-million deal with China's ZTE Corp.

It was Mendoza who signed a contract with ZTE officials on the broadband deal. The signing, held in April in Boao, China, was witnessed by President Macapagal-Arroyo. Shortly after,

MENDOZA/ A7

Driver gives Gonzalez gift of life

By Norman Bordadora, Jeannette I. Andrade and Leila B. Salaverria

FELICITO GUNAY AND HIS FAMILY have faithfully served the Gonzalezes of Iloilo and Negros Occidental "for generations."

In another act of selfless loyalty, the 53-year-old Gunay—nicknamed Muroy—parted with one of his kidneys to try and extend the life of his longtime patron, 76-year-old Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez, who underwent a

DRIVER/ A9

DI LANG PANG-BAKBAKAN, PANG-KANTAHAN PA!

Red alert turns into night of music

By Nikko Dizon

LAST WEDNESDAY, WHILE ON red alert at Camp Aguinaldo for any eventuality following the conviction of deposed President Joseph Estrada for plunder, some 300 soldiers were entertained by

RED ALERT/ A6

Estrada's nemeses celebrate win in Boracay room

By Volt Contreras

"ERAP HAS HIS MILLIONS AND ALL I get is this piece of paper?!" grumbled Arno Sanidad, one of the private lawyers who for six years had worked pro bono to help shorthanded public prosecutors pursue the criminal cases against Joseph Estrada.

He tossed the joke at the assembly at his table, referring to the certificate of appreciation he and some 20 of his *compañeros* received during the "thanksgiving" dinner held Friday night at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel, two days after the Sandiganbayan convicted the ousted President of plunder.

ESTRADA'S/ A6

JIM GUMO PUNZALAN

LAWYERS OF CONVICTION. Private and government prosecutors raise their glasses during a reunion and thanksgiving dinner Friday night in the Boracay Room of the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel in Mandaluyong City. Among those who were present were Dennis Villa-Ignacio, state witness Chavit Singson, Jovencito Zuño, Simeon Marcelo, and the brothers Arno and Pablito Sanidad.

'Premature ejaculation, 'says Erap lawyer

By TJ Burgonio

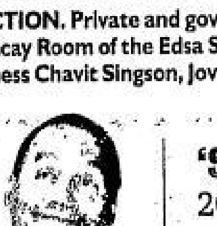
INFORMED OF THE FRIDAY NIGHT thanksgiving dinner of the prosecution, Joseph Estrada's lawyer Rene Saguisag said: "That's premature ejaculation."

Saguisag spoke with the INQUIRER on the phone and recounted the meeting called yesterday between the ousted President and his defense team at the latter's vacation estate in

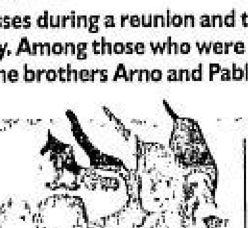
PREMATURE/ A15

JOB *Market*
Find a career in here

OJ Simpson named suspect in armed robbery in casino hotel room
WORLD / A22



'Sharon,' 'Richard,' 200 other stray cats now enjoy tender loving care in P1.3-M kitty house
METRO / A19



Foodies' delight: The most awesome restos, the best steaks, the sweetest desserts and more!
SUNDAY MAGAZINE

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will continue to experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

COMPILED BY: ELIZA VICTORIA, PDI RESEARCH/09/15/07 SOURCE: PAGASA

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Second FRONT PAGE

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IBA NGA NAMAN TALAGA ANG LEGAL SYSTEM NILA!

EZ2
23 9

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(In exact order)

Mid-Day SUERTRES Evening
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6/42 LUZON/VIS-MIN
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Dutch not easing up on Joma

Bert Gonzales says release from jail doesn't mean prosecutors giving up

By Michael Lim Ubac

JOSE MA. SISON IS NOT YET OFF THE HOOK, according to National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales.

In an interview yesterday, Gonzales said Dutch prosecutors were set to appeal the ruling of The Hague court that freed the founder of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CCP) after 17 days in detention.

The court had turned down the request of the prosecution to keep Sison in jail, saying the evidence was not sufficient to show that the rebel leader, while living in the Netherlands, had directly ordered the killings of former comrades Romulo Kintanar and Arturo Tabara in 2003 and 2004, respectively.

The charges were filed by the widows of the two slain former rebel leaders.

"What happened was he was released instead of being kept in jail (indefinitely). It indicates that the judge sees him not as a flight risk (who will try to escape) from the Netherlands. But the judge did not say that the proceedings will stop," said Gonzales in Filipino.

Gonzales insisted that Tabara and Kintanar, who became Sison's rivals, could not have been murdered without orders from the CCP leadership. He said the New Peoples Army (NPA), the communist party's armed wing, had owned up to the killings.

"What needs to be proven is the type of leadership that the CCP has, and the role played by the chairman of the communist party. The two could not have been killed without an order from the chairman of the party."

Gonzales said that even though it was public knowledge that Sison was the CCP chair, the latter has continued to deny this.

"He keeps on saying that the chairman of the Communist Party is Armando Liwanag, and that he's not Armando Liwanag," said Gonzales, who added that the Netherlands and other European Union countries had long recognized Sison to be Armando Liwanag, the nom de guerre of the CCP leader.

He said the Dutch prosecutors' next move would be to present additional evidence to support the murder charges against Sison, a former political science professor at the University of the Philippines.

Gonzales'said that once its help is sought, the Philippine government would be willing to provide the link between Sison and Liwanag.

Meanwhile, Kintanar's widow, Joy, marked her husband's birthday yesterday by asking for prayers in her quest for justice.

"Please remember Rolly in your prayers … Please pray for us, his family, so that we may find the truth and justice we seek in relation to his untimely death on Jan. 23, 2003," said Joy in a text message to the INQUIRER yesterday.

Kintanar was said to be the former head of the NPA. He and Tabara were part of a faction in the CPP that opposed the leadership of Sison. The split fractured the communist movement in the late 1980s and early '90s.

In Bacolod City, Tabara's widow, Veronica, opted to stay mum on the Dutch court's decision to Sison.

Arturo Tabara, 53, was the chair of the breakaway Rebolusyonaryong Partido ng Manggagawa-Pilipinas, Revolutionary Proletarian Army-Alex Boncayao Brigade (RPA-ABB). He was shot in a parking lot in Fairview, Quezon City, on Sept. 26, 2004, along with Stephen Ong, a college student and the boyfriend of his daughter.

Gov't braces for NPA raids

THE GOVERNMENT IS BRACING for armed attacks, particularly in Metro Manila, by the communist New People's Army, based on intelligence reports received shortly after the release from a Dutch prison of self-exiled communist leader Jose Ma. Sison.

This was disclosed by National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales yesterday on Vice President Noli de Castro's "Para Sa Iyo, Bayan" radio program.

Gonzales said Sison, the founder of the Communist Party of the Philippines who is based in the Netherlands, might want to avenge his 14-day incarceration on murder charges.

"We have intelligence reports that the NPA will be carrying out attacks in Metro Manila," Gonzales said in English and Filipino.

Gonzales said the government would provide protection to the widows of slain former communist leaders Arturo Tabara and Romulo Kintanar and to Cabinet members who might be targets for assassination.

The widows brought the charges against Sison and helped provide evidence to Dutch authorities in The Hague. *(See story above.)*

Early last week, however, The Hague district court ruled that there was insufficient evidence to hold Sison in jail.

Gonzales said the Philippine government could not seek the extradition of Sison to the Philippines where the latter is also facing criminal charges because there is no extradition treaty between this country and the Netherlands.

Meanwhile, Deputy Director Renaldo Varilla, police chief of the National Capital Region, has ordered the establishment of amnesty centers for communist rebel returnees in all city police offices, as provided for in the amnesty proclamation signed recently by President Mcapagal-Arroyo.

He said a report on the specific locations of the amnesty centers and their team leaders and staff should be submitted to him today.

Proclamation No. 1377 grants amnesty to communist rebels and covers rebellion and all other crimes related to it in pursuit of their political beliefs. It, however, does not cover rape, torture, kidnapping, use and trafficking of illegal drugs, and other crimes committed for personal ends.

The centers will comprise representatives from the provincial or city prosecutor's office, Integrated Bar of the Philippines, Department of Interior and Local Government, the police, the brigade or battalion level of the Armed Forces in the area, and the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process. *Cynthia D. Balana and Nancy Carvajal*

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Generations come together vs GMA, Marcos abuses

By Kenneth M. del Rosario

TWO GENERATIONS OF human rights activists—those who suffered during the Ferdinand Marcos dictatorship and those now seeking an end to the political killings and disappearances in the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo—met at a solidarity gathering yesterday at the Bantayog ng mga Bayani in Quezon City to dramatize their continuing quest for justice.

The activity marked the first anniversary of the formation of a new human rights crusade called Hustisya!

Clad in red shirts, more than 100 participants recalled the human rights abuses during the martial law era (1972-86) and the political killings and disappearances recorded over the past five years.

The young and old activists offered songs and prayers for the victims. Red chrysanthemums were placed before the pictures of activists killed.

"Arroyo is no different from Marcos. Her human rights violations are as bad as the former dictator's," Evangeline Hernandez, Hustisya! head convenor, told the INQUIRER in an interview.

"Our experiences might be generations apart, but we are fused by a common circumstance—state terrorism."

Hernandez said the killing of her daughter, Benjaline, a campus journalist and human rights worker, led her to be one of the founding members of the group. Benjaline was reportedly shot dead by soldiers in Arakan Valley, North Cotabato, in 2002.

"Our families draw strength and inspiration from each other," said Jose Luis Burgos, brother of missing activist Jonas Burgos.

Jonas, an agriculturist and peasant organizer, was abducted from a Quezon City mall on April 28 by armed men.

"Today, our fight is not just for Jonas. Our fight is for all *desaparecidos* (disappeared ones) and their grieving families," Jose Luis said.

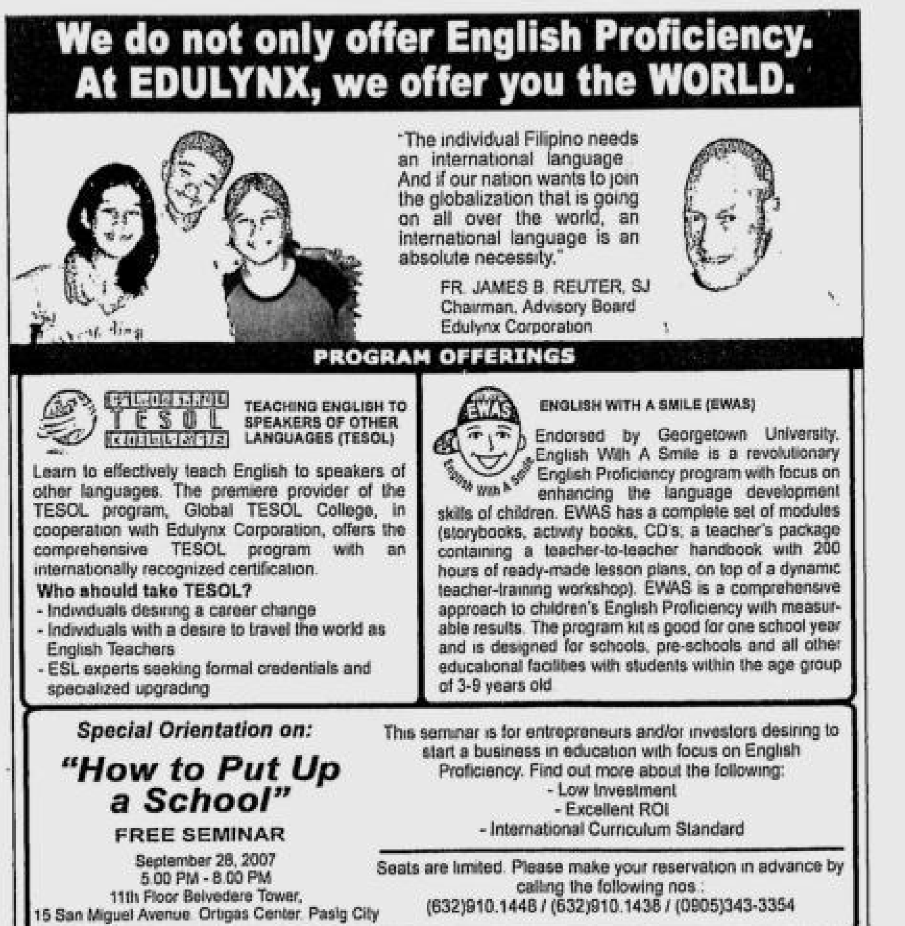
WHAT'S INSIDE

CLEANING UP the environment starts with us –Cardinal Rosales /A18

CONGRESSMEN appear bent on resetting SK, barangay polls /A4

DOC: PINAYS who conquered Mt. Everest greatly helped medical science /A5

A HUNDRED bells ring to signal start of fight vs child pornography /A5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THE POWER TO LEAD

House bent on resetting village polls

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES appears bent on approving the bill seeking to postpone the barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections scheduled for Oct. 29.

Speaker Jose de Venecia yesterday said he expected the postponement of the village elections to be approved on third reading in the House tomorrow.

"With strong bipartisan support, the bill postponing the barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections by two years is expected to be approved on third and final reading on Monday," De Venecia said.

The bill became the first measure approved in committee by the House in the 14th Congress after it was sponsored on second reading in plenary last week by Makati Rep. Teodoro Locsin Jr., chair of the committee on suffrage and electoral reform.

The bill seeks to postpone the barangay elections from Oct. 29 to May 2009.

The fate of the measure will still depend on the Senate, however.

The elections will still push through if the Senate fails to act on the legislation.

"It will be up to the Senate to decide whether the polls should be postponed or not," House Majority Leader Arthur Defensor said. *Norman Bordadora*

BOSTON-C / KATONI HERBS

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Nora Ocampo, Stage 4 Breast, Liver, Ovary & Bone Cancer Survivor

My illness two years ago was breast cancer: Stage 3A when I was operated on. After two years, it spread to my liver, ovary and bones. I could not stand anymore. At St. Luke Hospital, they said that they have to remove my ovary, undergo RFA for my liver, and later on chemotherapy. I did not have my liver treated. The following day, I decided to just take cyeton S orally and by intravenously.

In six months, my liver was negative of cancer cells and my ovary was normal. Now, there is no more illness in my bones because of Boston C Herbal Products and intravenous treatment.

Raul Colungca Pancreatic and Liver Cancer Survivor

I was born and raise in Texas, USA and I am a retired military man. I was in the logistic field Saudi Arabia in January 2004. I went for an operation for gall stone, only to find out that I had cancer. I had raptured cancerous tumors that spread through my body. When they told me I had three weeks to live, I went to Duke University in the US and underwent chemotherapy to get well again. And they told me I was at forth stage of pancreatic cancer and that there was no cure.

I underwent chemotherapy for eight months and the end result is that I became immune to chemotherapy. I read an article about the Philippines and about some patients who had been here and took Boston C. They said that the results were great and they told me about the good works that they had been doing here. Mostly, it was on the positive side. I decided to take a chance and came here to the Philippines and sought treatment.

On the first round of Boston C intravenous treatment, it seems like the result was positive for the most part. Not a hundred percent but there was quite a bit of improvement. I'm very glad about that. At least there was an improvement that wasn't there before. My tumor supposedly, according to the test, wasn't there anymore but I still have to take another test. They call it CT scan to make doubly sure that the tumor is completely gone. I still get some metastases in the liver but it has been reduced abut 30% in a matter of thirteen days. I had been here in the Boston C Tarlac clinic for thirteen days and I followed the instructions they gave me. I drank the supplement they gave me and there was an improvement. Not a hundred percent but it shows vast improvement. I feel a little better and a litte stronger and lost a little weight but I understood that because my appetite wasn't very good. By now, I'm gaining a little weight and I plan to come back for another treatment and I'm hoping that it will cure me completely. That is my hope.

Rodolfo Andaya Chronic Renal Failure survivor

I am Rodolfo Andaya, from Barangay Kaniyogan, Pasig. Two years ago I was told I had kidney failure. My doctor said, "This will require long term treatment". I was then told of the many options that I can choose from like major operation, kidney transplant which made me depressed then. I told myself that I was never going to get well. I felt pain in my stomach on many different occasions. I couldn't sleep. My weight really went down. Even my blood pressure went down. I then underwent dialysis for seven sessions and even had blood transfusion. My expenses were piling up and I felt that I couldn't hold any longer. Because of my predicament, I prayed all the time and everyday to the Almighty above. Then a friend of mine visited me and advised me to take Boston C. I then started taking Boston C after each meal. I noticed thereafter that there were "black" materials whenever I defecated. Now everything is normal including my urination. I still take Boston C because I think it will prevent any problems from recurring.

Helen Napiza 4th Stage Lung Cancer

"Three years ago, I had a mass in my lungs that was about the size of a golf ball. My doctor advised me to have a biopsy done but I opted not to have that done because somebody told me about Boston C. I underwent IV therapy using Boston C for one week and then oral therapy for 6 months. Afterwards, I underwent CT Scan, X-ray to find out if the mass is still there. All tests revealed negative with the help of Boston C."

Antonia Dotdot Stage 4 Ovarian Cancer

I am from Hongkong; and I have been a cancer patient since the year 2000. They operated on my left ovary. They removed it along with my appendix. But I did not undergo chemotherapy, that's why it metastazed to my right ovary. So they removed it. They should have removed both ovaries during my first operation. Anyway, I was already 50 years old. I was scheduled to have chemotherapy session but even after that, my cancer level was still high and I had a tumor in my liver.

The doctor wanted me to undergo six (6) sessions but I refused to do the chemotherapy. After that, my family including my husband accepted that my life will be short lived. We prayed and attended mass every day asking for a miracle for almost three (3) months. We even attended El Shaddai.

Then one day, my husband's assistant told him about Boston C herbal theraphy. So I called Mr. Agustin. right away and I was admitted to the Boston C clinic in tarlac for two weeks. That was three (3) years ago, March 2003.

After the treatment, I went back to Hong Kong for another check up. My oncologist was surprised because my cancer level went down. Before Boston C, my cancer level was 77.6 after the fifteen (15) days intravenous treatment of Boston C, my cancer level went down to 34.8. the oncologist was surprised and asked me to bring him a bottle of Cyeton S.
I stayed in Hong Kong for at least a year and then came back for my second Boston C treatment which was only for five (5) days because I felt all right. I brought a lot of Cyeton S, Ultimo and Boston C Plain to Hong Kong and Drank it religiously everyday.

This time is my third treatment in the cllinic after the three (3) years. Now, my cancer level is only 26. That is only 6 point higher than the normal level which is 20. I am really getting better. It is very dramatic.

Flordeliza Montejo Brain Cancer Survivor

A team from Boston C paid Mrs. Flordeliza Montejo, 58 years old, a visit in her home town in Orion, Bataan. Her daughter. Perlita Montejo, and caregiver, Julieta Garon reminisced how in 2003, Flordeliza was diagnosed to have brain cancer; and how she unfortunatelycould not be operated on. Due to this, the tumor grew and she went blind. She was very weak, had no appetite, was bedridden and almost paralyzed. She could not stand, let alone, walk. But somehow, her family found out about Boston C and brought her to the Tarlac clinic where Flordeliza was confined for ten days for an intravenous treatment to fast track her healing process. After this, she continued taking a prescribed dosage of Boston C herbal extracts orally for the next few months. Now, Flordeliza's brain tumor is completely gone. She has been cancer free for some years now, and it was very heart warming for the Boston C team to talk to her and to see her demonstrate a walk, and even mimic a dance. On her part, she must have been thrilled to see herself on the video monitor for the first time as the team played back her interview.

Topy Urbano, formerly insulin dependent diabetic

When Ultimo was introduced to me, I drank it but I still had my insulin injection, two times a day, in the morning and in the afternoon. After three months, I lessen my insulin intake. Then I consulted my doctor. He said my blood level is now normal.

One time I ate a lot of sweets. I worried and so I had an insulin injection. I immediately felt weak. I drank softdrink. I realized that there was a big change. I had to lessen or stop my insulin intake because I already have Ultimo.

After three months, I went to see my doctor but I was not taking insulin anymore. The doctor said I was normal. From that time on, I never had insulin. I just drank Ultimo for maintenance. My blood sugar level is normal for eight months now. I think Ultimo was able to rehabilitate my pancreas.

Sir Antonio R. Agustin – Spiritual Healer, Herbal Scientist at Inventor ng Boston-C Herbal Products na nakakagaling ng Cancer at iba't-ibang sakit na hindi kayang pagalingin ng medisina.

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100 bells toll against child pornography

AT LEAST A HUNDRED BELLS tolled in Manila yesterday to signal the start of the nationwide campaign against child pornography.

"Like the striking and sound of the 'batingaws' (bells), we will amplify these bells loudly to further echo the voice of Filipino children against pornography and all forms of abuse and exploitation, said Lean Flores, spokesperson of the Anti-Child Pornography Alliance (ACPA).

ACPA launched yesterday the Batingaw Network, a children and youth formation against child pornography in the Philippines.

Batingaw Network was the outcome of the youth caucus initiated recently by ACPA, Akap-Bata, Unicef and the Council for the Welfare of Children.

Among those who joined the caucus were students, community-based groups, faith-based organizations and various institutions geared for the battle to eradicate pornography and the exploitation of children.

Flores explained that "Batingaw" was derived from olden times, when bells were used to send messages of both good tidings and danger.

She expressed the hope that the youth involvement would result in the passage of a bill by legislators that would set "strong and definite" policies against child pornography and related concerns. *Tina G. Santos*

Doc: Medical science big winner in Pinays' conquest of Everest

FORT DEL PILAR, BAGUIO CITY—JEANETTE Belarmino-Sardenta, Carina Dayondon and Noelle Wenceslao may have won their spurs as the first Filipino women to reach the summit of Mt. Everest, the world's tallest peak, but their expedition leader said what the three women accomplished was even more valuable to medical science.

Art Valdez said international doctors were astonished by the physiological feat achieved by the all-Filipino women Mt. Everest team, particularly Sardenta who had given birth to a son just five months before the climb.

"We all come from a tropical country, with no experience in high altitude environments that affect blood flow, so when we allowed Jeanette to climb, [the medical field] was amazed," Valdez said.

Provided insights

He said the experience gave Filipino doctors some insights into changes in the team members' menstrual cycles, the alterations in their blood sugar with each step of the way up Everest, as well as their psychological condition before and after the historic climb.

Wenceslao's mother died while the expedition was midway through their mission. The daughter decided to continue the trek, "with mama beside me."

Valdez said the slew of medical information gathered from the expedition inspired the team doctor, Ted Esguerra, to compile them into a medical journal and a book on Asian physiology and high-altitude weather.

The world has also taken notice of the other experts on the team, Valdez said. Filipino climatologist Voltaire Velasco was able to get a job at the US National Aeronautical and Space Administration (Nasa).

Sardenta, Dayondon, Wenceslao and Leo Oracion, the first Filipino to reach the summit of Everest in 2006, were honored with a parade by Philippine Military Academy cadets here on Saturday.

At a Friday news conference, Sardenta said giving birth forced her to confront the psychological terrors of the climb.

The worst they could imagine occurred on the way to the summit, she said.

No medicine

Mindful of the physical trauma they would have to endure, the three women decided not to take medicine to suppress menstruation, Dayondon said.

The trek was not conducive to women as there were to be no bath facilities for at least three months.

Sarmenta said they were more concerned about being perceived to be "kikay" (girly) than the actual climb.

Valdez said the toll from breathing the thin air and the cold climate had real medical risks that made the team's feat important to science.

Thin air

"Cells die due to oxygen deprivation," because the thin air impedes the body's natural capacity to produce blood oxygen, he said.

He said the first Filipino expedition to conquer Mt. Everest in 2006 also provided valuable medical information.

One of the team members collapsed, despite the fact that he was Ifugao and grew up in a mountain environment, he said.

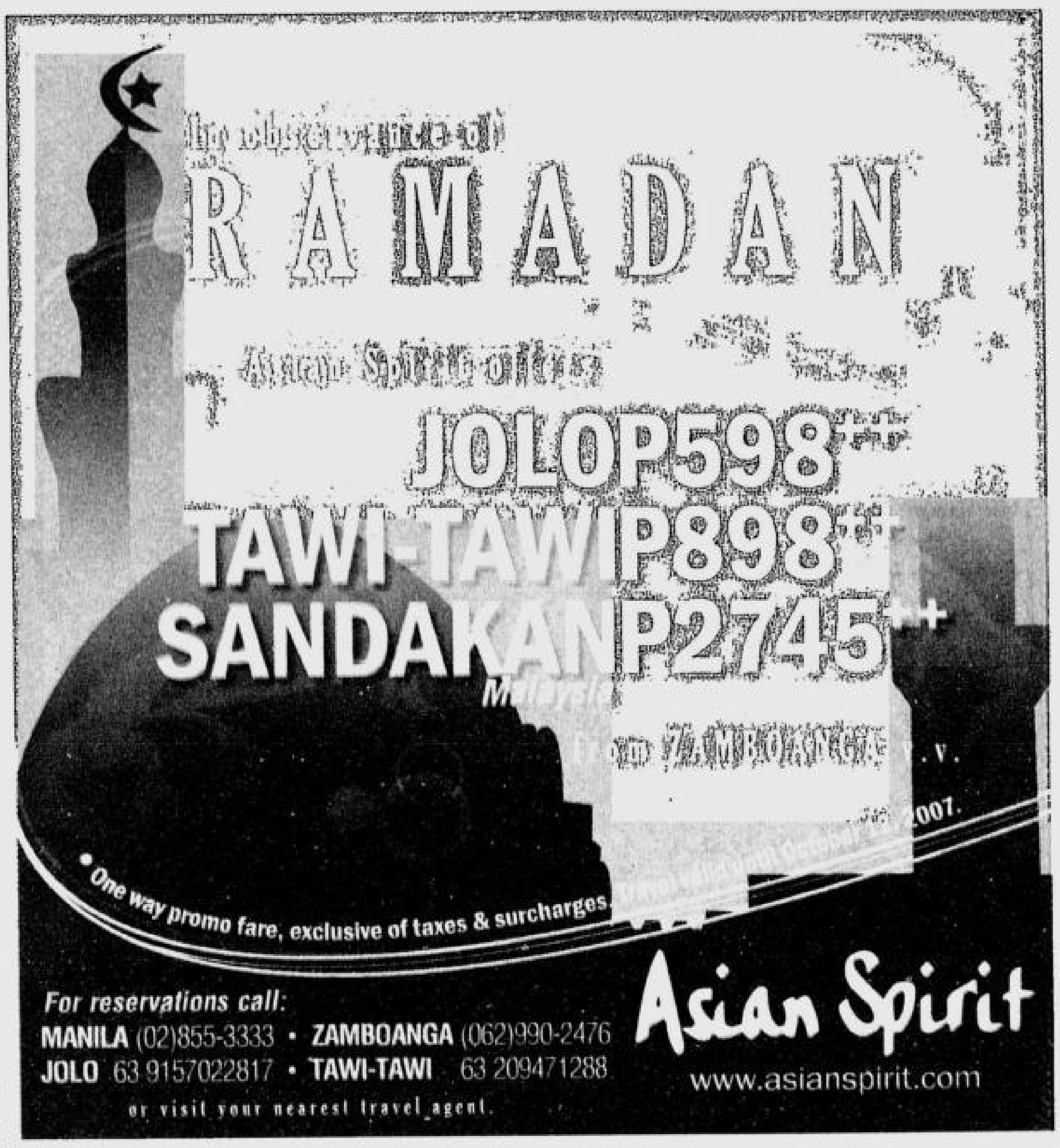
Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon

Adoption meet set

A CONFERENCE INtended to strengthen policies and mechanisms to safeguard the adoption of Filipino children by foreign families will be held on Sept. 17-20 in Tagaytay City by the Inter-Country Adoption Board (Icab), an attached agency of the Department of Social Welfare and Development, and the Association of Child Caring Agencies of the Philippines.

The 9th Global Consultation on Child Welfare Services, which some 200 foreign and local delegates are expected to attend, has "Adoption: Opening Windows for Development" for its theme. Social Welfare Secretary Esperanza Cabral is the keynote speaker.

Under the Inter-Country Adoption Act of 1995 (Republic Act No. 8043), the adoption of a Filipino child by a foreigner or a Filipino citizen permanently residing abroad may be resorted to only if there is no available adoptive family in the Philippines.



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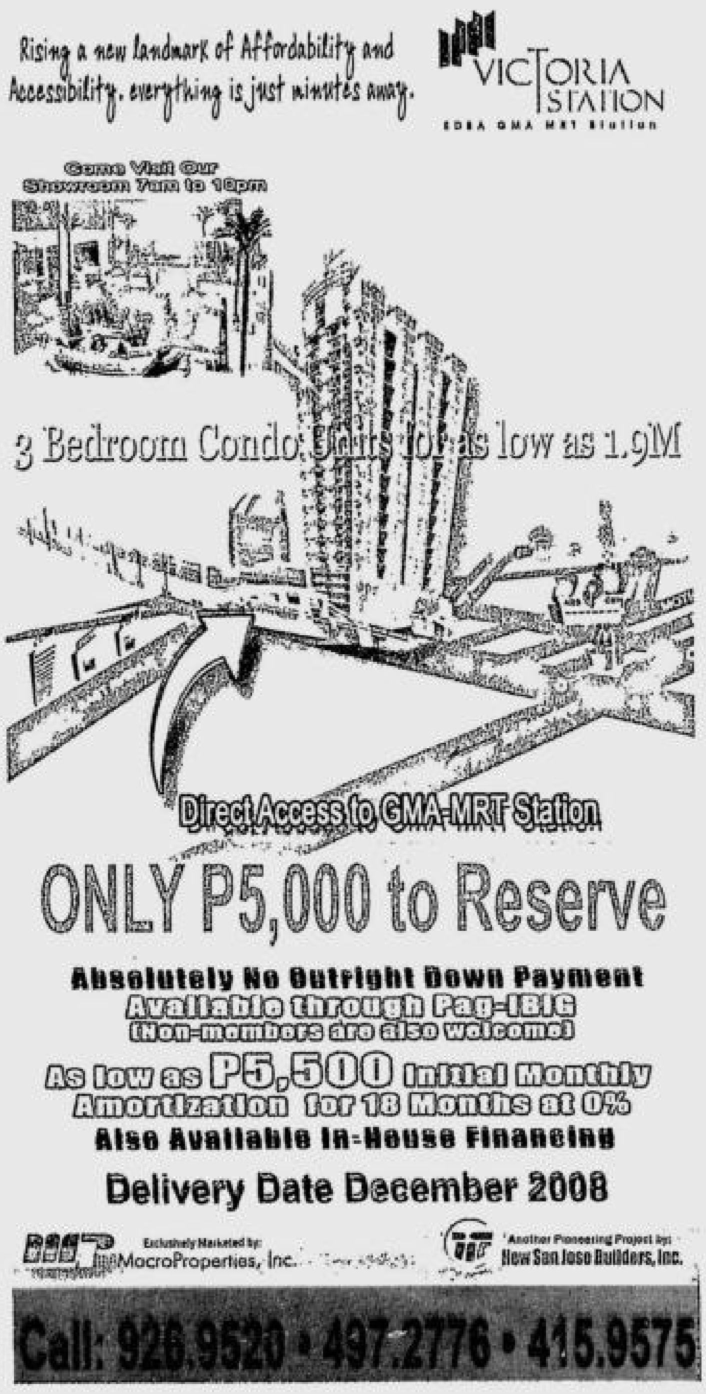

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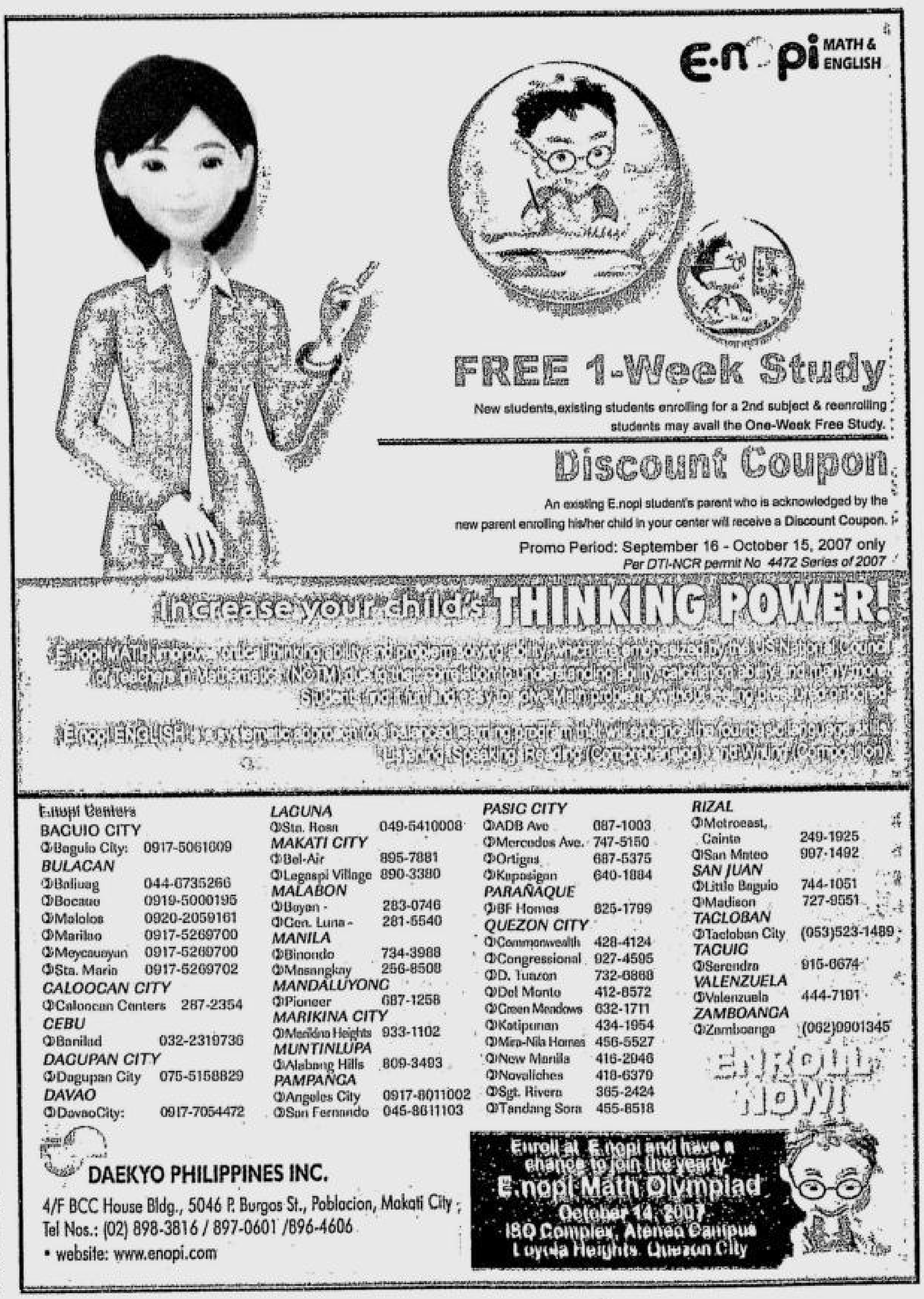

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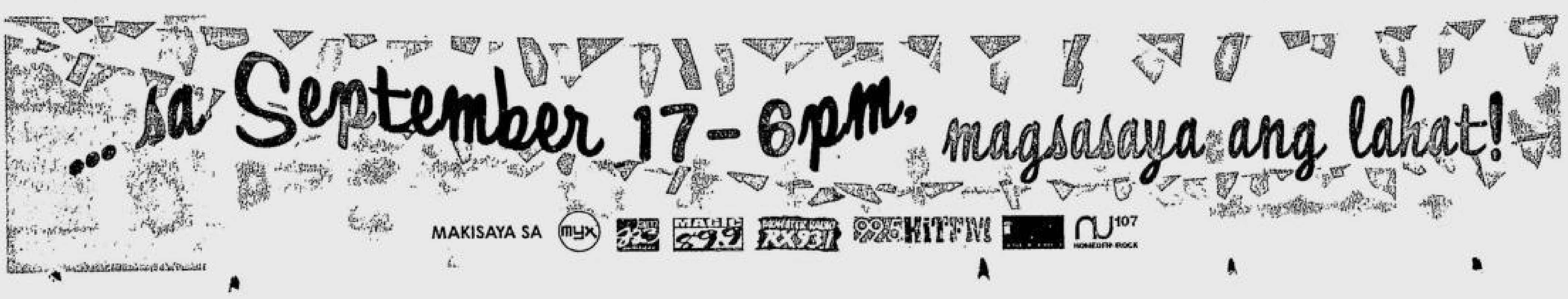

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MAKISAYA SA

Estrada's nemeses celebrate win in Boracay room

From page A1

The dinner included a program feting both the government lawyers who had appeared at the hearings in the antigraft court and the collaborating attorneys from various law firms who, behind the scenes, had helped build the evidence and prepare witnesses.

Sanidad, Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio and former Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo hosted the "reunion." Special guest Luis "Chavit" Singson, the Estrada crony who turned state witness against him, dropped in.

The certificates of appreciation were issued by the Office of the Special Prosecutor (OSP) headed by Villa-Ignacio, whose team in the Estrada trial included Deputy Special Prosecutor Robert Callos and Directors Raymundo Julio Olaguer and John Toralba.

Party in Boracay

It was an evening of broad smiles, high-fives and hearty laughter pervaded by a sense of relief and historic accomplishment.

The winning legal eagles gathered to roost, particularly to party, helping themselves to an open bar and a seven-course buffet. A chanteuse and her repertoire of oldies helped set the mood.

But Sanidad's quip was not the only amusing sidelight of the affair: Curiously, it was held in a function room called the "Boracay."

Private lawyer Joe Nathan Tenefrancia, who was privy to the booking details, insisted that there was no malice intended.

"It's a mere coincidence," Tenefrancia said when asked why, of all the venues the hotel had to offer, it had to be one that called to mind the so-called Boracay Mansion, one of the controversial Estrada assets ordered forfeited by the antigraft court.

'The Firm'

"We asked for a room and we were first given the 'Kamia,' but it can only hold 100 people. It was the hotel that picked Boracay. And we found out about it only later," said Tenefrancia, a senior partner in Villaraza & Angangco.

That law firm formerly named Carpio Villaraza and Cruz is the same legal powerhouse known in political circles as "The Firm," for its perceived past closeness to the current occupants of Malacañang.

It became fairly obvious during the evening that the firm had lent its support to the prosecution of Estrada, which, officially, was a task assigned to government lawyers particularly from the OSP (under the Office of the Ombudsman) and the Department of Justice.

A streamer displayed in the function room and courtesy of the law firm read: "For as long as there are men and women dedicated to the rule of law, even Presidents and their cohorts can be prosecuted, convicted and jailed."

What it's not

In his welcome remarks, Tenefrancia immediately placed the evening's celebration in context:

"Let me begin by saying what tonight's gathering is not.

"It is not a celebration of one man's being sent to jail. We are not reveling at the expense of another's suffering, whether deserved or not.

"Rather, this is a reunion of those who worked and toiled. We are gathered to recognize certain efforts that often remain obscured from the attention of many."

Marcelo, who resigned as Ombudsman in September 2005, purportedly for health reasons, thanked "those who selflessly placed the prosecution of this case above and ahead of their individual careers."

He called for the partnership that emerged in the six-year Estrada trial between private and public prosecutors to be "institutionalized" and "emulated" in other major graft cases.

"The private sector should not abandon the government in its fight against corruption. Private lawyers should volunteer to help in prosecuting corrupt elements in the government," Marcelo stressed.

"We gather tonight to celebrate the triumph of the rule of law. We stand tall knowing that a group of dedicated individuals took to heart a noble cause and fought a good fight," he said.

Marcelo added in closing: "Our citizens should make our leaders realize that for as long as there are men and women who make it their life's crusade to safeguard and advance the rule of law, there is no safe haven for the corrupt. *Mabuhay ang Pilipinas!*"

'The system works'

Villa-Ignacio, who presided over the awarding of the certificates, said: "We have proven that the [justice] system works, if you get competent and honest individuals. We have shown that a former President can be charged, prosecuted and convicted."

He said he had "no regrets" rejoining the government to "be involved in this trial of the century."

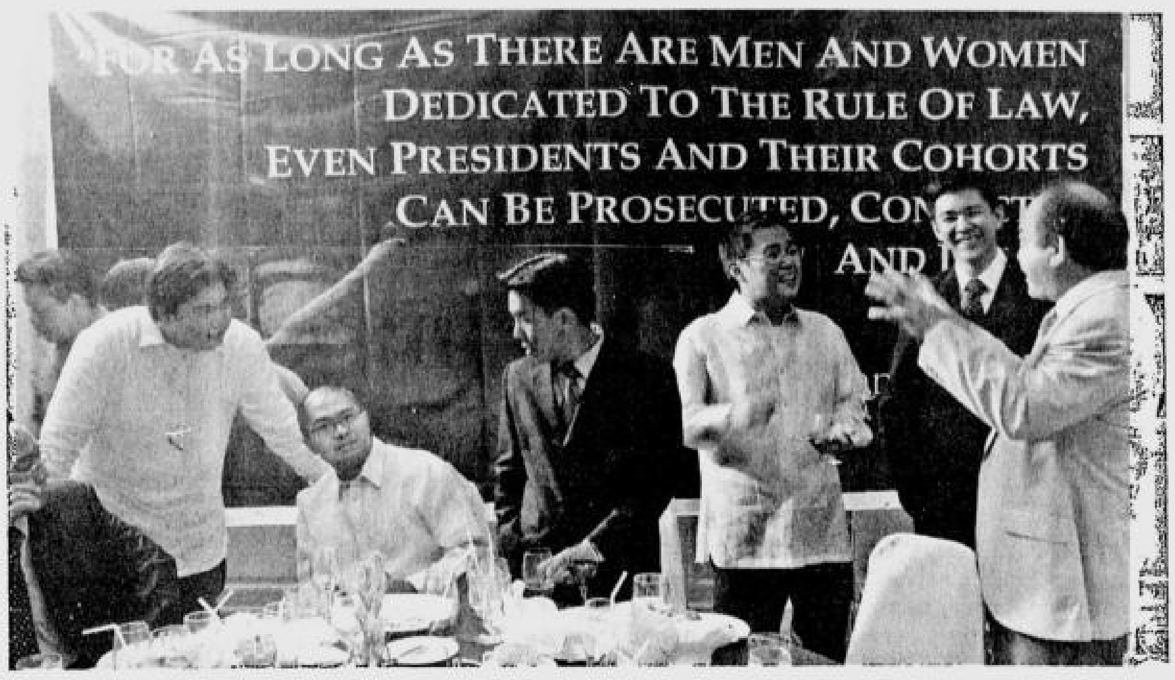
Villa-Ignacio was a law professor and already a retired judge of the Makati Regional Trial Court when he was requested by Sanidad, Marcelo, Sen. Joker Arroyo and then Vice President Teofisto Guingona to join the public prosecution team.

Now that it's all over, "I have begun computing how much earnings I have not realized [since leaving the private sector for the Estrada trial]," he said, smiling.

Aside from Sanidad and Tenefrancia, the other private lawyers who received certificates of appreciation were Sanidad's elder brother Pablito, Leonard de Vera, Antonio Peralta, Bot Lim, Marichu Lambino, Rafael Santos, Migs Silos, John Balisnomo, Dennis Funa, Augusto San Pedro and Elmer Galacio.

From the justice department, the honorees were Chief State Prosecutor (CSP) Jovencito Zuño, Deputy CSP Richard Fadullon, Assistant CSP Lawrence Chua-cheng, now Health Undersecretary Alex Padilla, and prosecutors Susan Dacanay, Edna Valenzuela and Lucia Balawag.

A minute of silent prayer was offered in memory of Ricardo Nepomuceno, a private lawyer who served as the team's "spiritual leader," and who passed away last year.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YOUNG lawyers who helped pursue the criminal cases against former President Joseph Estrada in various capacities are among those who attended the reunion and thanksgiving Friday night at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel in Mandaluyong City.

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Red alert turns . . .

From page A1

colleagues who performed songs from their new album.

"Let's turn this red alert into a music alert tonight," Dr. Lorna Esperon, wife of the Armed Forces chief of staff, told the soldiers in Filipino before the start of the mini-concert, where modest packed dinners and six lechon (roasted pigs) were served.

Esperon, called "Doktora" or "Ma'am Doktora" in the military circle, rallied the soldiers and said the album's ambitious goal was to "go for gold."

"If only we could sing to our enemies in Mindanao instead of fighting them with guns," she added wistfully.

The album, "Kawal Pilipino... Lahi ng Bayani!" is a compilation of original songs performed by enlisted personnel from three AFP branches of service who won in a battle of the bands and singing contest sponsored by the AFP Officers' Ladies Club in June.

The album was launched last night at Camp Aguinaldo.

Battle of the bands

"Our soldiers are talented. We want to show that off— that they're not only good in fighting (enemies) but they're also good in music," Esperon, the ladies club adviser, told the INQUIRER in a recent phone interview.

A self-confessed music lover, Esperon said she wanted to revive the Singing Soldiers contest that used to be a segment on "Eat Bulaga!" This led to the June staging of the battle of the bands and the singing competition.

Esperon narrated that although the soldiers were given short notice, they managed to come up with impressive and original entries.

The winners received modest cash prizes, and got a chance to record an album, supervised by composer and musical director Mon del Rosario.

The album will soon be available in music stores and record bars. Produced by Talent Asia Production, it is exclusively distributed by Ivory Music and Records.

Soldiers sing of peace

Through their musical compositions, the soldiers are able to express their genuine desire for peace. The songs in the album are about their hardships in the field, their pride of country, and their sacrifices for their countrymen.

One song, "Kaban ng Bayan," expresses a soldier's heartache over the rampant corruption in the government—the root of the Oakwood mutiny in 2003 and the persistent rumors of restiveness in the military.

Even militant groups will agree with Cpl. Bonito Lambag, when he sings: "*Tayo ay hindi bulag/At ating nakikita/Saksi ang lahat pati mga bata/Kaban ng bayan ay pinag-aagawan/Halos silang lahat ay wala na sa katinuan...* (We are not blind. We see the coffers of the country being emptied. Almost every one is crazy.)"

Listeners will enjoy the nearly forgotten jukebox of "Sundalo" by S/Sgt. Ronald Asuncion of the Army's Security and Escort Battalion Band, as well as "Bigyan Daan Kapayapaan" by Air Woman 1st Class Jasia Valdez Sevilla of the Philippine Air Force, who won first place in the Singing Soldier competition, and the easy-to-relate sound of "Ikaw, Ako, Pilipino," featuring T/Sgt. Braulio Quemado, who bagged third place.

Navy Seaman 1st Class Francis de Real and and Seaman 2nd Class Michael Aquino manage to up the beat with "Buhay Ko, Para sa 'Yo," an energetic rap about a soldier's commitment to defend his country to the last breath.

Carrier single

If there's a likely carrier single for the album, it has to be "Dugong Pilipino." PAF Airman 1st Class Edward Villafuerte gives a solid performance which can very well pass for a MetroPop grand prize winner.

And the lyrics need no elaboration: "*Pilipino mahalin mo/Ano man ang lahi ko/Magka-isa't magbigayan tayo ay iisa/Marami mang hadlang/Upang tayo'y di magkasunduan/Basta't iisa ang damdamin/May dangal at mithiin/Isang lahi't dugong Pilipino...* (Love the Filipino. We may come from different places. There may be obstacles. Nevertheless, let us unite. We are all Filipinos.)"

Del Rosario composed two songs, "Kawal Pilipino... Lahi ng Bayan!" which he performed for the album and "Filipina," which was sang by Dolores Ibrado, wife of an Army general and the president of the Ladies' Club.

Proceeds from album sales will fund the Ladies' Club projects for the soldiers.

According to Esperon, they include a health program, a project to educate soldiers and their families on how to deal with their autistic children, and plans to "empower" soldiers' wives and strengthen family ties.

Of course, the singing soldiers will get royalties from the album sales, she added.

This early, Esperon is already dreaming of a second album.

If it does happen, she said, she would certainly include the song composed by the mother of a soldier who was killed in the military offensive in Basilan last month.

The mother performed the song, which she dedicated to her son, in a recent episode of "Wowowee" which left soldiers and officers in the audience in tears.

Mendoza wants to talk, seeks SC okay

From page A1

the original copy of the contract was reported stolen.

Mendoza cited the sub judice rule to dodge questions about the broadband deal that were raised on Thursday night at a budget hearing of the House committee on appropriations.

(Sub judice is Latin for "under judgment." In Philippine jurisprudence, discussing a matter under litigation may be interpreted by litigants or by the court as interference in due process.)

Iloilo Vice Gov. Rolex Suplico has charged Mendoza with indirect contempt and asked the Supreme Court to stop the implementation of the deal. The tribunal issued on Tuesday a temporary restraining order.

TRANSPORTATION and Communications Secretary Leandro Mendoza and Philippine Military Academy Supt. Maj. Gen. Leopoldo Maligalig troop the line on Saturday at Fort del Pilar, Baguio City. The controversial Cabinet secretary was given an achievement award by his alma mater. VINCENT CABREZA/INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON

From the horse's mouth

A separate case filed in the Office of the Ombudsman will determine whether Mendoza and two assistant secretaries of the DOTC are liable for violation of the antigraft law.

Mendoza, who was honored with a parade by PMA cadets, said those accusing him of manipulating the ZTE deal were the same people who had prevented him from defending himself.

"[Congress] already knows what this is all about," he said. [The lawmakers] just want to get [insights] from the horse's mouth, from the guy implementing the [broadband] project. I really want to talk, but they are the ones preventing me from talking."

Mendoza said he wanted to tell the public that the broadband project was imperative for a country that had started to govern online.

In a statement, he said that "if unbound by the sub judice rule, the DOTC will be able to prove once and for all, without any doubt, which among the contending NBN proposals is the best, and which among the NBN proponents really meets the government's national broadband needs."

According to Mendoza, a broadband infrastructure will allow the government to link the data processing systems and the communication systems of all the agencies under its control.

"We have the e-commerce law, and that requires an electronic government. And e-government is simply interconnecting all government offices," he said.

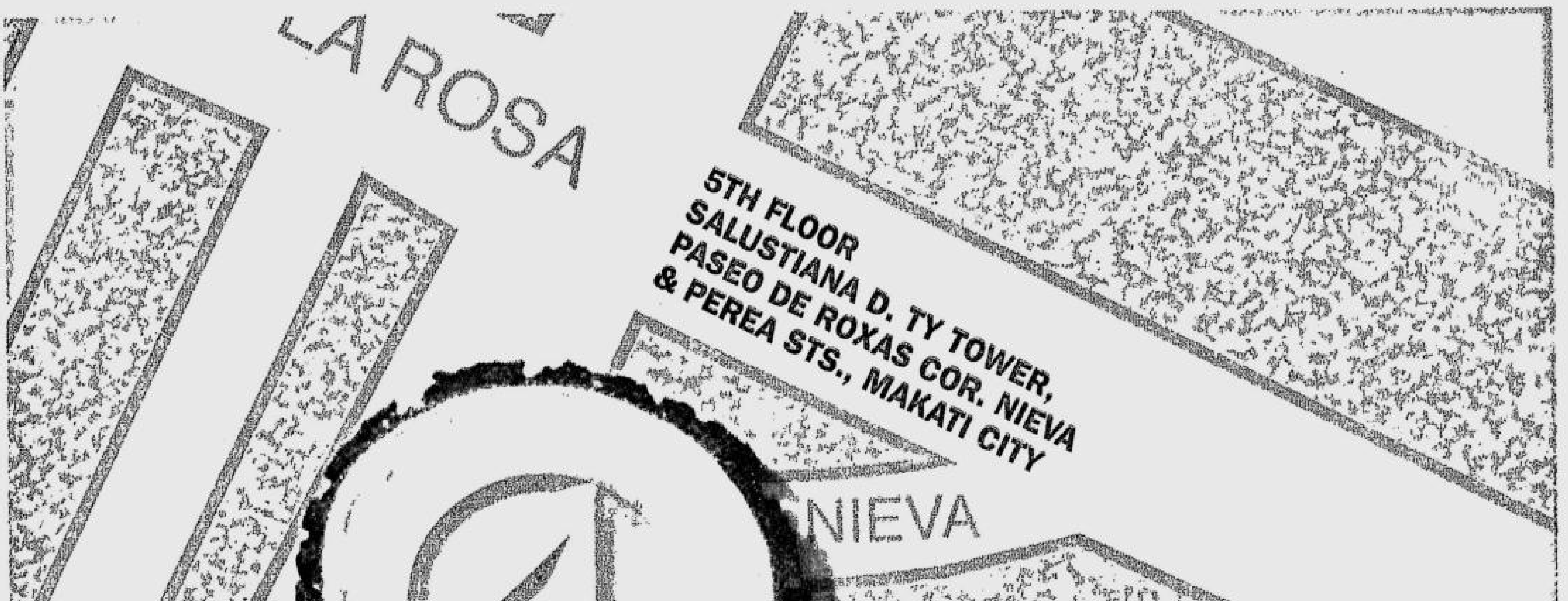
A PMA official also said a broadband infrastructure would be important once the government began to enforce national security measures.

Both the National Identification System and the Human Security Act of 2007 require a tightly guarded government online system, said the official who asked not to be named for lack of authority to speak on the subject.

Mendoza's 'mistahs'

Assistant Transportation Secretaries Roberto Lastimoso and Reynaldo Berroya and Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board chief Thomas Lantion, all former police officers and PMA alumni like Mendoza, attended the parade in the latter's honor.

Mendoza, Berroya and Lantion belong to PMA Class of 1969, and Lastimoso, Class of 1967.



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Who's the mystery man?

From page A1

Mendoza to patch things up between Abalos and himself.

De Venecia has accused Abalos of trying to bribe him with $10 million to have AHI withdraw its own NBN proposal.

The NBN project aims to build a nationwide hi-tech telecommunications backbone that would link the telephone, cellular and Internet services of all government offices.

Wack-Wack meetings

De Venecia said that on Abalos' request, he attended five or six meetings at Abalos' office at Wack-Wack, where a number of Abalos' friends and associates were also present, and one meeting in Shenzen, China.

He said he rejected Abalos' alleged bribe offer and appeals to withdraw because he was convinced AHI had a better proposal that would not cost the government anything to build the NBN project.

Abalos has strongly denied De Venecia's allegation that he had offered him a bribe, and threatened to file libel charges against the son of Speaker Jose de Venecia.

De Venecia also said Abalos had taped his telephone conversations with ZTE officials. He said Abalos himself told him about the wiretapping in a fit of anger.

'Back off'

After this incident, De Venecia said Mendoza arranged the reconciliation meeting at Wack-Wack, where the mystery man was present.

De Venecia said the man told him to back off.

"*Umatras ka* (Back off)," he quoted the man telling him, his fingers pointed at his face.

"*Nabigla ako* (I was shocked)," De Venecia said of both the man's presence and his words.

He said the man was apparently brought in to "bully me like a child."

Interviewed twice on the ANC network, the younger De Venecia said the mystery man did not really take part in the negotiations but he believed the man was there only to force him to yield to Abalos' entreaties.

'Bully tactic'

"I think he was brought in by Chairman Abalos basically to put some pressure on me to back out of the contract," De Venecia said on television.

"My impression is that Chairman Abalos brought this person in to bully me, [that] hopefully I would withdraw my application," he told the network.

"My impression is that he was just there to muscle his way [in] and hopefully get to me so that I would back out," De Venecia said.

He said he found the man's presence at the meeting to be improper but he was not sure whether what the man did "is incriminating because I don't know whether he performed an illegal act."

"He was there for one meeting."

'Big trouble'

Asked if the man was a government official, De Venecia said he "can't say" until he appeared at the Senate.

He said he did not know if the man himself had received any kickbacks.

"Probably," De Venecia said, when asked by ANC if he thought he would be courting "big trouble" should he mention the person's name.

"I guess I am already (in) for big trouble since I came out and I've been receiving death threats," he added.

In the interview with the INQUIRER, De Venecia claimed he had received threats from powerful people, including one that supposedly came from Transportation and Communications Secretary Leandro Mendoza.

It was Mendoza who signed the deal with ZTE in China last April in the presence of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

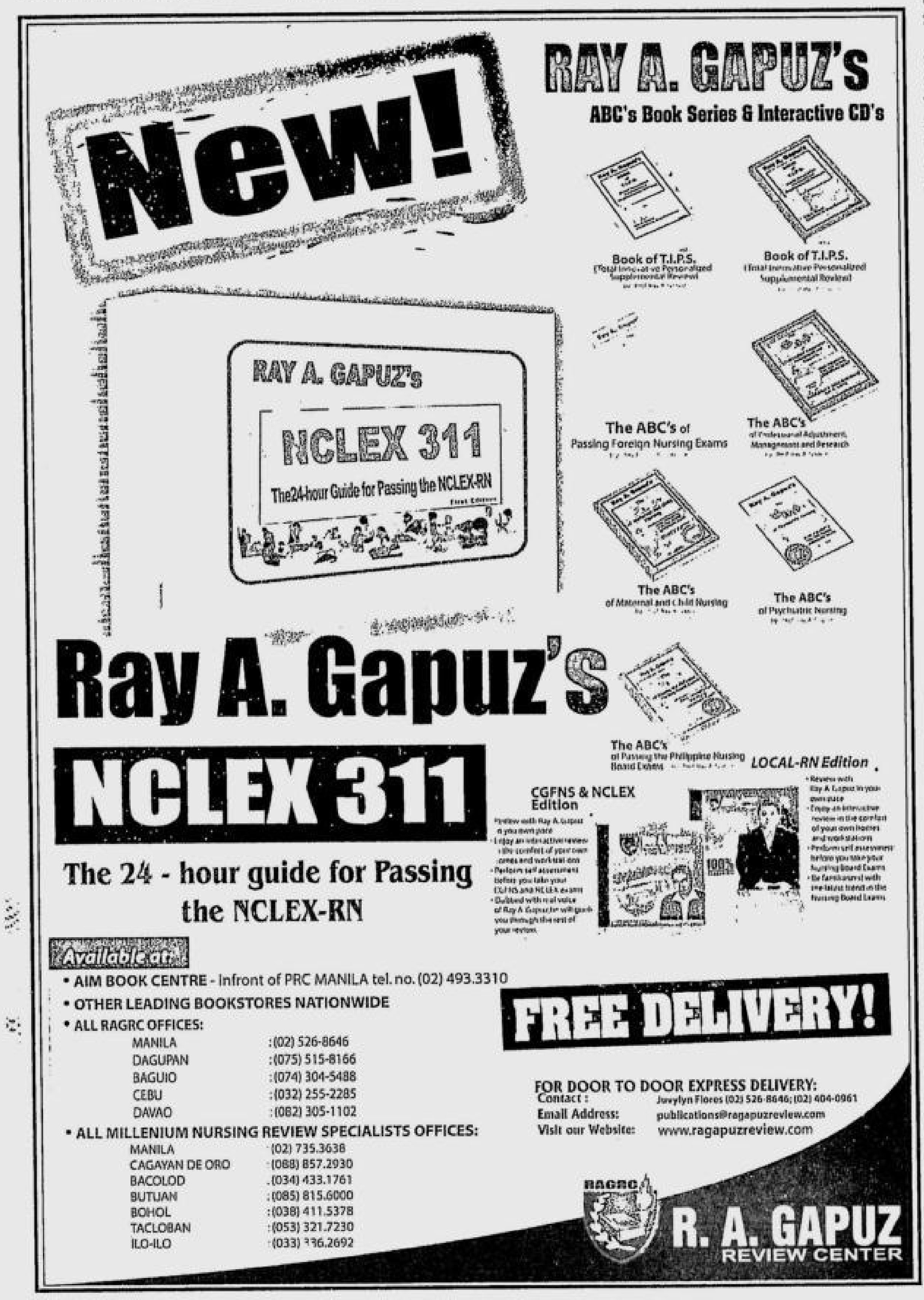
Mendoza dismissed De Venecia's allegations as "fairy tales being woven by a losing bidder."

Father worried

De Venecia said he had no agenda in making his disclosures except to see the ZTE contract rescinded and reforms instituted to change the Philippines' woeful image abroad.

"I'm fighting the DOTC, I am fighting Chairman Abalos, but I am also conflicted because my father is Speaker of the House," he told ANC. "My father has been quite worried for my own safety ... and that's what's making him angry. 'Why do you have to say all these things? You are risking your life.'"

In the TV interview, De Venecia described the alleged bribes as "a highway robbery and that is something I cannot stomach."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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, September 16, 2007
24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Exodus 32:7-11, 13-14

Moses pleads to the Lord.

Yahweh said to Moses, "Go down at once, for your people, whom you brought up from the land of Egypt, have corrupted themselves. They have quickly turned from the way I commanded them and have made for themselves a molten calf; they have bowed down before it and sacrificed to it and said: 'These are your gods, Israel, who brought you out of Egypt.'"

And Yahweh said to Moses, "I see that these people are a stiff-necked people. Now just leave me that my anger may blaze against them. I will destroy them, but of you I will make a great nation."

But Moses calmed the anger of Yahweh, his God, and said, "Why, O Yahweh, should your anger burst against your people whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with such great power and with a mighty hand? Remember your servants, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and the promise you yourself swore: I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land I spoke about I will give to them as an everlasting inheritance."

Yahweh then changed his mind and would not yet harm his people.

2nd Reading: 1 Timothy 1:12-17

Christ came to save sinners.

I give thanks to Christ Jesus, our Lord, who is my strength, who has considered me trustworthy and appointed me to his service, although I had been a blasphemer, a persecutor and a rabid enemy. However he took mercy on me because I did not know what I was doing when I opposed the faith; and the grace of our Lord was more than abundant, together with faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.

This saying is true and worthy of belief: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the first. Because of that I was forgiven; Christ Jesus wanted to display his utmost patience in me so that I might be an example for all who are to believe and obtain eternal life. To the King of ages, the only God who lives beyond every perishable and visible creation—to him be honor and glory forever. Amen!

Gospel: Luke 15:1-32

The parable of divine mercy.

Tax collectors and sinners were seeking the company of Jesus, all of them eager to hear what he had to say. But the Pharisees and the scribes frowned at this, muttering. "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them." So Jesus told them this parable:

"Who among you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, will not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and seek out the lost one till he finds it? And finding it, will he not joyfully carry it home on his shoulders? Then he will call his friends and neighbors together and say: 'Celebrate with me for I have found my lost sheep.' I tell you, just so, there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one repentant sinner than over ninety-nine upright who do not need to repent.

"What woman, if she has 10 silver coins and loses one, will not light a lamp and sweep the house in a thorough search till she finds the lost coin? And finding it, she will call her friends and neighbors and say: 'Celebrate with me for I have found the silver coin I lost!' I tell you, in the same way there is rejoicing among the angels of God over one repentant sinner."

Jesus continued, "There was a man with two sons. The younger said to his father: 'Give me my share of the estate.' So the father divided his property between them.

"Some days later, the younger son gathered all his belongings and started off for a distant land where he squandered his wealth in loose living. Having spent everything, he was hard pressed when a severe famine broke out in that land. So he hired himself out to a well-to-do citizen of that place and was sent to work on a pig farm. So famished was he that he longed to fill his stomach even with the food given to the pigs, but no one offered him anything.

Finally coming to his senses, he said: 'How many of my father's hired workers have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! I will get up and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against God and before you. I no longer deserve to be called your son. Treat me then as one of your hired servants.' With that thought in mind he set off for his father's house.

He was still a long way off when his father caught sight of him. His father was so deeply moved with compassion that he ran out to meet him, threw his arms around his neck and kissed him. The son said: 'Father, I have sinned against Heaven and before you. I no longer deserve to be called your son…'

But the father turned to his servants: 'Quick! Bring out the finest robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Take the fattened calf and kill it. We shall celebrate and have a feast, for this son of mine was dead and has come back to life. He was lost and is found.' And the celebration began.

Meanwhile, the elder son had been working in the fields. As he returned and was near the house, he heard the sound of music and dancing. He called one of the servants and asked what it was all about. The servant answered: 'Your brother has come home safe and sound, and your father is so happy about it that he has ordered this celebration and killed the fattened calf.'

The elder son became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and pleaded with him. The indignant son said: 'Look, I have slaved for you all these years. Never have I disobeyed your orders. Yet you have never given me even a young goat to celebrate with my friends. Then when this son of yours returns after squandering your property with loose women, you kill the fattened calf for him.'

The father said: 'My son, you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. But this brother of yours was dead, and has come back to life. He was lost and is found. And for that we had to rejoice and be glad.'"

Commentary

The people have renounced God and, in their depravity, worship an idol they made from the idols of Egypt that enslaved them. Moses implores the mercy and great power of God on behalf of his people once again and, as though he was just waiting to be asked, he relents and does them no harm. Paul writes to Timothy, telling him of his past evil, his sin, and his violence against others. He also tells Timothy what God has done for him in making him his servant in his mercy. This, too, is our situation no matter who we are—it is God's mercy that has sustained us and transformed us and made us holy/good.

Jesus tells three stories about the mercy of God, about forgiveness and trying to keep the sheep together. He goes after the lost sheep that strays, leaving the others to fend for themselves (take care of each other). The woman loses a coin (part of her dowry) and searches for it to put it back on the belt that she wears. And the father wishes both his sons would recognize his own love for them and, in mercy, to forgive one another and come back together as brothers. We are all the beloved of God and our relationships with God the Father are only as good as our relationships with each other. Do we live in such a way that we nurture and strengthen the communion of the Church and of all people?

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Driver gives Gonzalez gift of life

From page A1

kidney transplant on Friday.

At 4 p.m. yesterday, the secretary was reported to be in stable condition and had been moved from the intensive care unit to his room at the National Kidney and Transplant Institute (NKTI) in Quezon City. Both he and and Gunay were reportedly doing well.

"We children discussed (who among us would give a kidney). Mang Muroy volunteered," Iloilo City Rep. Raul Gonzalez Jr. told the INQUIRER.

Gonzalez, a lawyer, is the eldest of the justice secretary's four children who include two doctors.

The secretary's other children are Jose Mari, who's with the Department of Social Welfare and Development, and physicians Marigold and Charmaine.

The congressman said Gunay's kindness would further strengthen the relationship between the Gonzalezes and the Gunays.

With the clan for decades

The young Gonzalez said the Gunays from Panay Island had been working for the secretary's clan for decades.

"For generations, their family has served us. You don't get that kind of service if each [clan] doesn't treat the other as family," he said in a telephone interview.

Gunay is not just a driver, he is virtually a family member, according to sources who refused to be identified because they had no official authority to speak on the matter.

Gunay, a longtime employee of Gonzalez and a fellow Ilonggo, is close to and treated well by his employer's family, one source said.

"When he is absent from family gatherings, they look for him. They ask where he is," the source said.

Like a son

Earlier, another source said Gunay was so close to the justice secretary that the latter considered him one of his children.

Sources said it did not seem difficult for Gunay, who has four daughters, to give a kidney to his boss.

He did so voluntarily, the source added. "You can't scare him into giving up his kidney."

One source said several employees were willing to be kidney donors, but it was Gunay who proved to be a good match.

The young Gonzalez said Gunay's wife was also at one time a helper in their household. The couple, he added, have four children aged eight to 14.

Asked if the Gunay brood would receive compensation for the organ donation, Gonzalez said: "Let us say his family will be looked after."

He also said that Gunay was on the way to recovery. "I heard he's also doing well. He is recovering [from the surgery] fast."

Loyal and devoted

Even the executive director of the NKTI acknowledged the loyalty and devotion of the justice secretary's longtime driver.

"He (Gunay) must have been so devoted to the secretary he offered one of his own kidneys," Dr. Enrique Ona said, adding that Gunay has been employed by the secretary for 30 years.

Gunay, he stressed, immediately volunteered to donate a kidney upon learning that his employer needed a transplant.

"He (Gonzalez) must have been a very kind boss," Ona remarked, adding that it was fortunate that Gunay's blood and tissue type were compatible with the secretary's.

Driving with one kidney

Asked if it was possible for Gunay to still drive for the secretary, the NKTI executive director said, "He can probably drive after three weeks to one month."

"A person can live normally even with one kidney. He can still perform different kinds of physical activities," he added.

Ona heads the team of doctors that continues to monitor Gunay's and Gonzalez's health at the NKTI.

The recovery period for a donor is four to six weeks but he will require constant monitoring after discharge from the hospital.

"He (Gunay) is doing fine and is already up and about," Ona said, but he did not say when he would be discharged from the medical facility.

Meanwhile, Ona said the justice secretary's operation was successful.

But, "we still have to observe how his body reacts to his new kidney," he said, adding that Gonzalez would have to stay in the hospital for the next eight to 10 days.

He did not discount the possibility that complications could occur. In a medical bulletin released yesterday at 11:20 a.m. Ona said, "In this type of operation, complications may occur such as rejection (of the transplanted kidney), pneumonia or any other serious event which we will be watching for carefully in the next several days."

"The four-hour operation went smoothly and he (Gonzalez) took the operation well," the bulletin said.

It was learned that the organ transplant started at 8:30 a.m. Friday and lasted until 12:30 p.m.

Awake and conversant

"He is fully awake, conversant and comfortable ... He is now in the recovery room with excellent kidney function with the new kidney and a urine output of 6 liters in the last 20 hours. He is fully awake, conversant and comfortable," Ona said in the medical bulletin.

The NKTI executive director said the creatinine secretion of the kidney, measured at 1.5 mg/dl (milligrams per deciliter), and the urine output were indications that Gonzalez's kidneys were functioning.

Creatinine is an end product of metabolism and measures kidney function. The normal value for males is 1.3 mg/dl. In the secretary's case, the level of creatinine is slightly higher but is considered normal for a patient who has just undergone a kidney transplant.

Doing well

Ona told the INQUIRER: "The risk is higher for kidney transplant patients his age but this is a successful operation, and for a 76-year-old man, he is doing fine."

"He would have to be monitored closely and needs to regularly undergo checkups after he is discharged from the hospital. At least twice a week for the next few weeks and gradually, on a monthly basis," he said.

Based on NKTI records, Ona said that 98 percent of kidney recipients survive the transplant after a year, 93 percent survive after three years, and 83 percent survive after five years.

"He (Gonzalez) can live normally and perform his usual activities, but of course with certain limitations," Ona stressed.

Out of ICU

The justice secretary has already managed to talk with his children after his kidney transplant procedure on Friday, this was confirmed yesterday by his eldest son and namesake, Iloilo City Rep.Gonzalez.

"He's okay. My siblings have already talked with him," the young Gonzalez said in a phone interview.

"Unfortunately, those who are sick can't be at the ICU. Right now, I'm the one nursing a fever so I am banned from the ICU," he added.

"I doubt if the President has already talked to him. He's still under sedation," Gonzalez said.

But Social Welfare Secretary Esperanza Cabral told the INQUIRER that the secretary had been moved from the intensive care unit to his room some time 4 p.m. yesterday.

"He is doing very well, in fact he is now in his room," Cabral said.

One-month leave

The justice secretary is on a one-month medical leave, which he took upon the advice of President Macapagal-Arroyo, who had noticed that he had difficulty walking during a Cabinet meeting.

Ms Arroyo had initially suggested he go on leave for two months, but Gonzalez said he did not want to be idle for that long.

Gonzalez was earlier hospitalized for bleeding ulcers, which he said weakened his legs.

While Gonzalez is on leave, Solicitor General Agnes Devanadera was appointed acting justice secretary.

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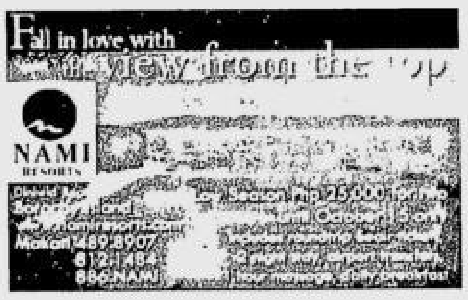

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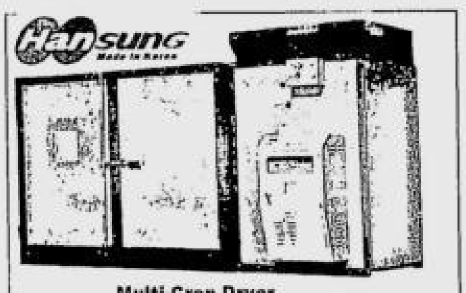

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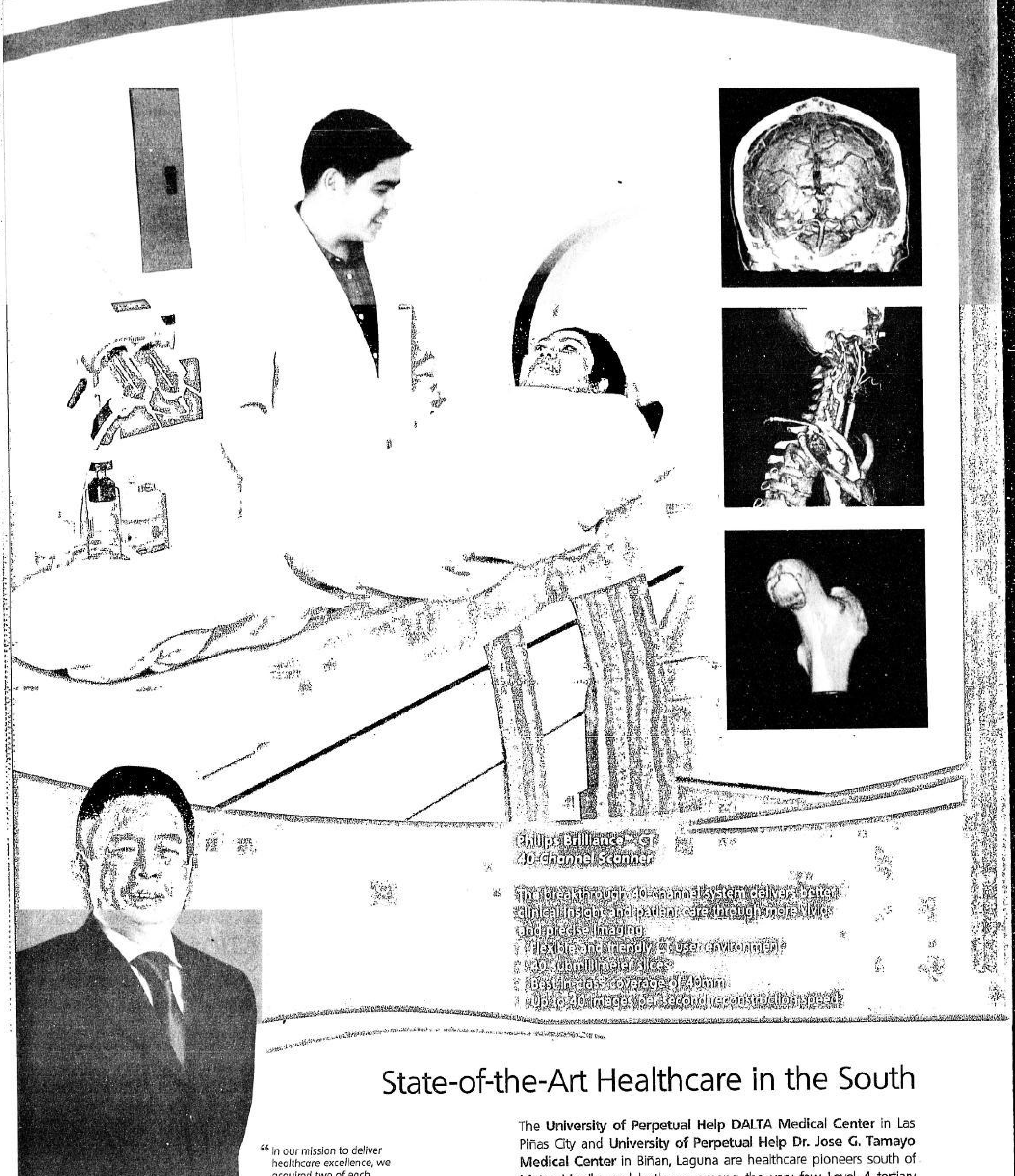

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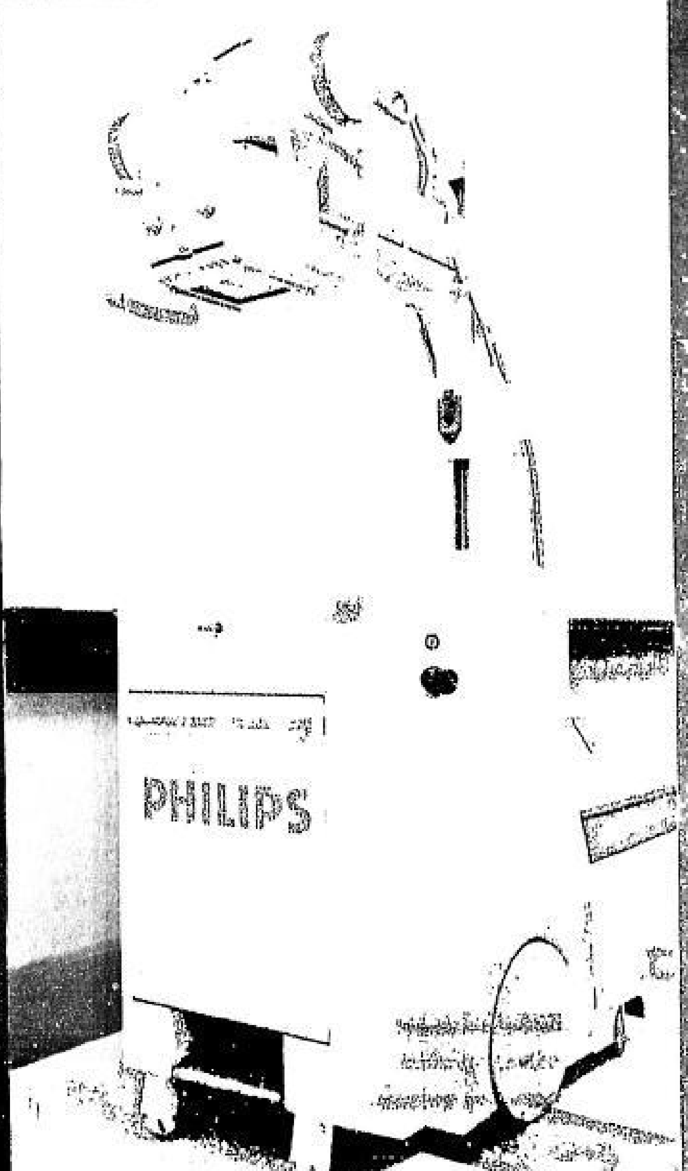

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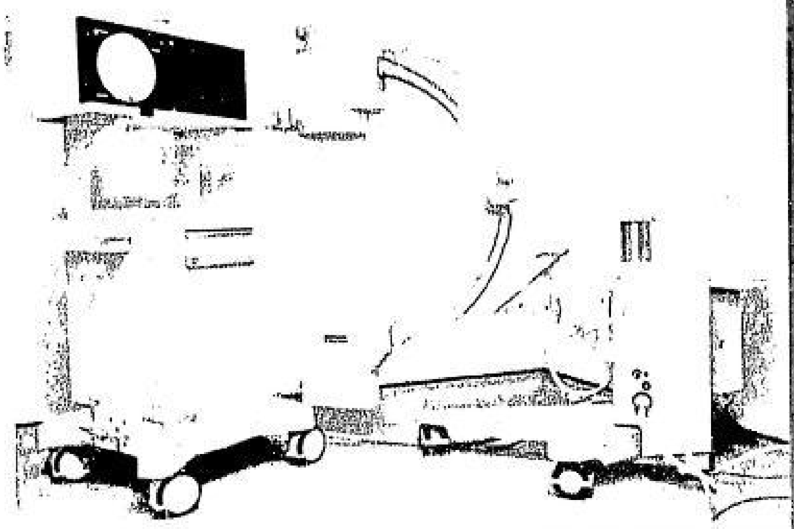

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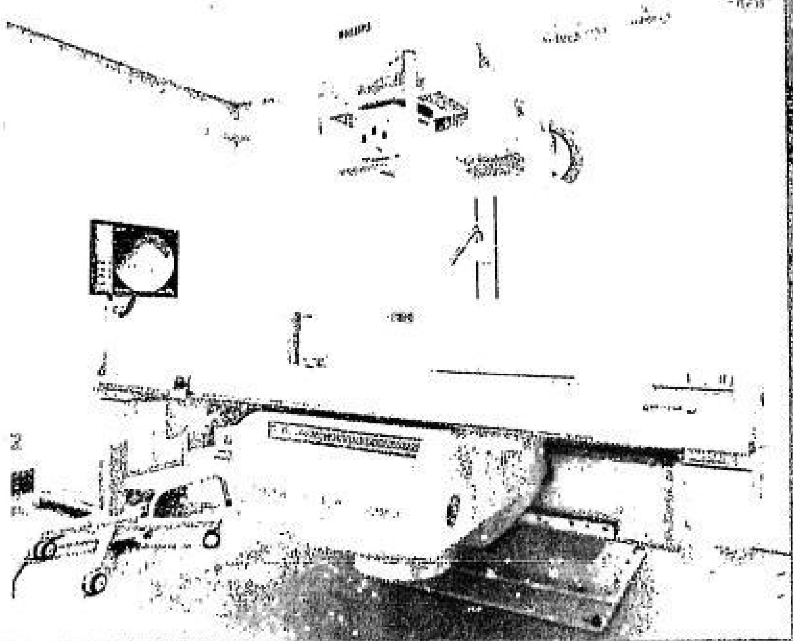

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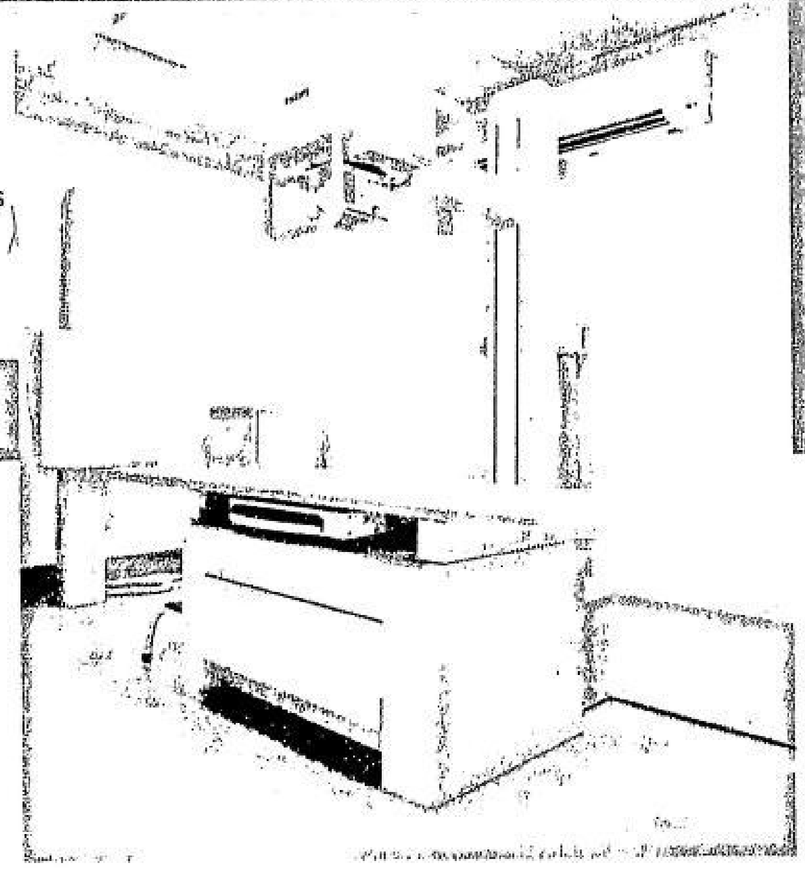

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Grace period

EDITORIAL

THROWING MONEY AT A PROBLEM WON'T SOLVE it. President Macapagal-Arroyo says the government has the cash to automate elections. Clearly, she has the upcoming barangay and Sangguinang Kabataan (SK) elections in mind.

We believe pursuing automation in a rush would be counterproductive. The Commission on Elections, in particular as it is presently constituted under the beleaguered leadership of Benjamin Abalos, shouldn't be entrusted with the authority to shortcut bidding processes in the rush to automate the barangay elections. Instead of modernizing our electoral system, this would only open up another opportunity for a controversial purchase of equipment, which could then put every subsequent electoral exercise under a cloud of doubt. Our political skies are too overcast for this at the moment.

What would a rushed automation of barangay elections next month achieve? An army of dubiously elected ward leaders eager to do the President's bidding in 2010.

If we are to automate, let's do it right, under a Comelec untainted by the most disgraceful set of commissioners since the Marcos years. If we are to automate, let's give a sector that's pretty much more respected and distinguished than our election officials—the IT sector—a chance to arrive at a consensus on the best form of automation to undertake. If we are to automate, and if we are (sensibly) to use the barangay elections as a laboratory to debug an automated system for voting, then let's not rush into it pell-mell; let's give it a year, no more, no less.

A happier confluence of events is possible. The President has a chance to fill the vacancy in the Comelec chairmanship that will occur in February next year—and other vacancies that may perhaps come up (we can only earnestly hope that the current Comelec commissioners see the light and resign en masse, together with their disgraced and disgraceful chairman)—with a credible appointment.

Electoral watchdog groups and the IT sector have a chance to show they can do more than make noise, they can achieve a consensus on solutions and, who knows, even on possible Comelec appointments. Our legislature can institute much-needed reforms, not on the basis of partisanship, but in acknowledgment of the public's yearning for cleaner elections. There is an obvious opportunity here, for the executive and legislative branches to achieve a kind of redemption—or, at least, recovery of their standing—before the people.

While we're at it, postponing the barangay elections by a year would also allow Congress to consider a much-needed reform. We endorse the manifesto signed on Sept. 5, in Baguio City, by educators and students calling for the abolition of the SK. The manifesto, signed during the annual training convention of student council leaders in public schools, proposes that the current revenue allotment for the SK—10 percent of every barangay's budget—be re-channelled to public education instead.

The student-educator manifesto points out that all the SK has achieved is to put in the hands of young people large sums of money that they are not prepared to handle; and to serve as a take-off point for dynastic control of local politics. Money is power; and young people all over the country are getting a corrupt and corrupting introduction into power politics by means of the SK. In contrast, student governments represent a more integrated approach to representative government, without the tempting access to large sums.

Arrivederci, Luciano

FOREIGN COMMENT

THERE WERE SOLID REASONS LUCIANO PAVAROTTI—WHO died at the much-too-young age of 71 in his hometown of Modena, Italy—was the most celebrated opera singer since Caruso. He had charisma and personality, of course, but most of all it was that magnificent voice and the artistry with which he employed it.

Within two or three notes, anybody who paid attention could tell that this was Pavarotti and nobody else. The lower register had an unusual richness and even a darker timbre, which made the apparent effortlessness with which he nailed those ringing high Cs seem all the more amazing.

Pavarotti became a pop icon but with a solid foundation. With his peerless technique and impeccable diction, in his prime he was one of the finest interpreters of Italian opera—especially the lyrically virtuosic bel canto repertoire of Bellini, Donizetti and the like—ever to captivate an audience.

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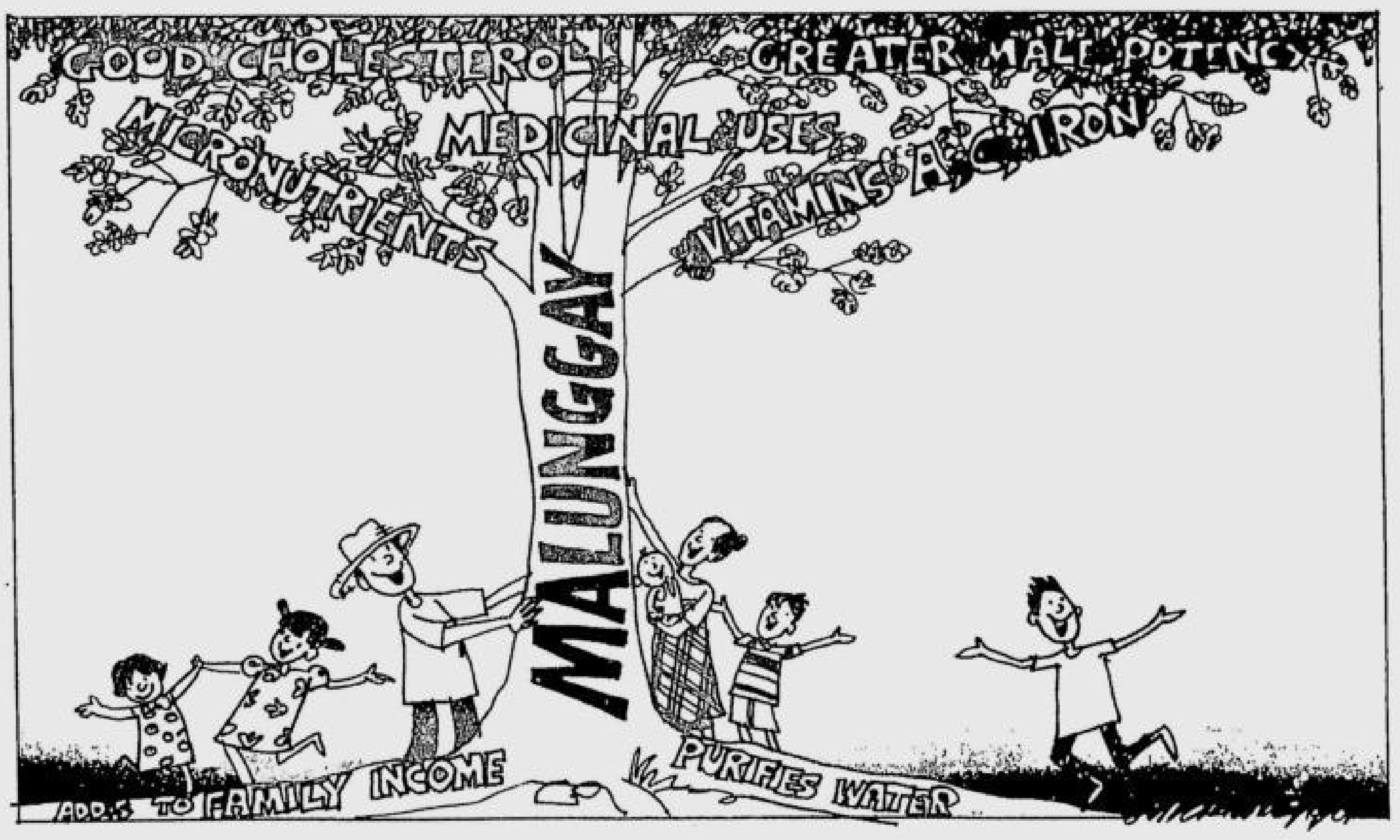

The Estrada decision

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

WHATEVER THE SANDIGANBAYAN DECIDED last Wednesday on the Estrada plunder case would have agitated the still sharply divided nation on the former President. Justice Benjamin Cardozo's "hooting throng" from either side of the controversy might have denounced an acquittal as a bought decision for the accused or a conviction as a dictated persecution by his opponents. Fortunately, the public had more sense and placidly accepted the decision, with reservations.

What might have influenced the presumptive judges would be their plain uneducated prejudice for or against Erap regardless of the merits of the case. Wisely, however, they deferred to the judgment of the justices who had studied the pros and cons of the complicated case, the factual and legal issues involved, and the evidence submitted by the prosecution and the defense. That was the correct procedure in the orderly resolution of the case.

Even Estrada had the good grace to presume the unblemished character and competence of the members of the Special Division that was to pronounce his fate. He expected and prayed for a fair decision from the Sandiganbayan that had accorded him proper respect as a former President of the Philippines. But while hoping for the best, he was prepared for the worst and said he was ready to go to prison if he was convicted. Whatever his secret thoughts were, his public composure was excellent.

Many of his followers have angrily distanced themselves from the judgment of the Sandiganbayan simply because of their antipathy for Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo who has replaced their fallen idol. Their irrelevant consensus is that she has machinated his conviction for her own selfish purposes. Others, while conceding their hero's guilt and punishment, nevertheless pointedly if only rhetorically demand: "*Bakit si* Erap *lamang*?

The planned rally of the Erap supporters in case of his conviction did not materialize. The rain must have dampened their enthusiasm or the massive ranks of the military must have cowed their bravura. It was just as well for they were terribly outnumbered by the GMA sentinels determined to prevent another failed Edsa 4 from storming Malacañang. The angry placards and clenched fists in the Erap trenches were no match against the maximum tolerance of the armed enemy.

The fiendish Saddam Hussein was convicted of hundreds of murders after a trial that lasted a little over only one year. He plundered lives, not money. His automatic appeal was dismissed and soon thereafter the tyrant was hanged. By contrast, the case against Erap continued for more than six years and has not yet ended with the promulgation of the sentence against him four days ago.

His conviction is not yet final. The decision which was not read in full during its promulgation has already been scrutinized by his lawyers who, naturally, have discovered incredible errors from their own viewpoint. They will ultimately elevate the *ponencia* for review by the Supreme Court, which may affirm, reverse or modify it in many more months or even years to come.

Appeals on the ground of factual errors are hardly successful, but there are notable exceptions. One example is that questionable case where the appellant was convicted of fraud in a decision written by Presiding Justice Francis Garchitorena of the Sandiganbayan that was affirmed by the Third Division of the high tribunal chaired by Chief Justice Andres R. Narvasa himself. In violation of its own rules, the Supreme Court allowed the prohibited appeal of the case to the *banc*, which subsequently acquitted the twice condemned accused.

Suspicious cases like this may shake public confidence in the high tribunal as the corrector of judicial blunders, given its claimed supremacy in the decision of cases, however erroneous and even if deliberately so. But there are many occasions where it has rectified the mistakes of lower courts, and even its own fallibility, to uphold justice in the finest traditions of the judiciary. The Supreme Court is still the most trustworthy among the three major branches of the government.

The appeal of the Sandiganbayan decision will stay its execution, and Estrada can comfortably remain under arrest in his rest house in Tanay in the meantime. This may be a long meantime. Unless cases now move faster in the Supreme Court, the first year at least of his appeal will be wasted in the preliminary skirmishes between the Solicitor General and the Erap lawyers. Expect the usual numerous motions for extension, deferment, postponement, clarification and whatever reasons creative counsel can imagine. And there will also be, of course, the oral arguments and the final memoranda to further clutter the *rollo*.

When all dilatory tactics shall have been exhausted, the case shall be ready for decision. This should be made within a maximum period of two years unless the justices can conjure some dubious excuse for its extension. By the time they are ready to decide the appeal, many of the current members may have already retired or become too senile to remember what the Estrada imbroglio was all about. It may then be convenient to just archive the case, as a mere footnote in the annals of the Supreme Court.

Honesty and humility

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

LAST WEEK, AN ELDERLY LADY FROM ILOcos told me: "Father, in America I experienced shock culture."

"Lola, maybe, you mean culture shock," I corrected.

"No Father, in America *sjak agluto, siak aglaba, siak aglinis amin! Siak* culture!" (Me cook, me wash, me clean, me everything!)

* * *

In today's Gospel (Lk. 15, 1-32), Jesus tells us that the prodigal son came to his senses when he realized how miserable his lot had been in a foreign land, doing everything by himself, living in dire need and hunger, a far cry from the life of the well-fed hired workers in his father's house. Deprivations and humiliations can lead us to the road of conversion. On the other hand, affluence and prosperity can blind and mislead us from our true vision and mission.

* * *

The story of the prodigal son reminds us that nobody stays on top forever. Money can be lost, position can be taken away, friends can disappear, power and glory can fade away. But what remained in the prodigal son was the memory of his home and his loving father. Humility was the key that opened the door that led him out of his brokenness and drudgery. Unless and until one is humble or is humbled, there can be no real conversion, no real freedom, and no real moving on.

* * *

I look at many of our people in high places today, who continue cheating, robbing and lying; and I often wonder if they realize their folly in their search for worldly riches and glory. I often find myself amused and amazed at how they can blurt out their lies and denials "without batting an eyelash" and—wonder of wonders!—somehow live with them. Or so it seems. But I surmise theirs must be a miserable life deep inside because of that constant and present fear of being uncovered, caught and punished for their crimes.

* * *

What would be necessary to make a call a wake-up call? Sickness, pain, loss of a loved one, deprivation—all these are calling and pointing us to home. But what can we say of people who have gone through all these and more, yet go on sinning anyway?

How long can one go on ignoring God's call? There is no escaping it, for someday soon, we all will have our final call.

* * *

A person can have all the wake-up calls in life, but if he/she does not pick up the phone and answer, then he/she is a subscriber that cannot be reached. Let us not turn off our mobile phones and let us not keep God's call "waiting." It is God who is calling. Answer Him. It is God who is knocking. Let Him in.

* * *

There are two keys we need to set us free from our prisons. The first is honesty. As long as we go on denying and rationalizing, we can never really "see." Let us pray to the Holy Spirit to set us free from our biases and blind spots. The second is humility. As long as we are arrogant and proud, we can never really accept who we really are and the pathetic situation we got ourselves in. Let us ask the Holy Spirit to set us free from our defiance and false securities.

* * *

The prodigal son came to his senses because in all honesty and humility, he realized his present situation. In other words, he faced the light and came "eyeball to eyeball" with his God. Don't avoid God's eyes. Don't evade God's all-knowing and all-loving look into your eyes.

* * *

Conversion happens when we accept God's unconditional love and allow God to embrace us, with all out filth, stench, warts and all. Often, conversion does not happen because we keep thinking of some great tomorrow or some big someday when we will be more "good," or because we keep regretting some great yesterday when we were good "then." Forget about your great tomorrows or your glorious yesterdays. There's only now. There's only love, unconditional.

* * *

They say there are three signs that tell one is growing old. The first sign is forgetfulness. The second sign is ... what was it again? Anyway, our greatest confidence is that our God is not only a forgiving but also a forgetting God when it comes to our sins and iniquities.

* * *

I erroneously wrote in my last column that Oct. 15 is the Feast of the Triumph of the Cross, which was actually observed last Sept. 14. Sorry, it was an "honest mistake." By the way, is there such a thing as "dishonest" mistake?

* * *

Inviting you for a pilgrimage to Naju, Korea this Oct. 17-22 to meet the Korean visionary Julia Kim with whom we experienced a "Eucharistic miracle" in May 1991. God willing, 14-year-old blind girl and healer Fatima Soriano will join us in this pilgrimage. We are looking forward to grace-filled moments with Julia and Fatima. For particulars, please call 7217457; 5238581 to 88.

* * *

P.S. How do you say in Japanese a "lowly woman"? Hamburger (humble girl)!

I think, that's what we need in our country right now.

* * *

A moment with the Lord:

Lord, help me to be honest and humble so that I can listen and respond to your call. Amen.

Reforming the Judicial and Bar Council

WITH DUE RESPECT

Artemio V. Panganiban

LAST SUNDAY, I DISCUSSED THE ROLE OF THE Judicial and Bar Council (JBC) in assuring a credible judiciary. Because of deficiencies in the JBC's structure, and alleged defects in its nomination process, some critics have proposed its abolition and a return to the old system of confirming judicial appointments by the Commission on Appointments (CA).

Reforming systemic deficiencies. As I explained last week, the present system has shielded justices and judges from direct **congressional** interference, but not the four regular JBC members who need CA confirmation. JBC members are vulnerable to the same political pressures foisted on judges under the old system. Furthermore, judges—as presidential appointees—are still subject to **executive** influences. This is especially true of magistrates who seek promotion to higher courts (or to other jobs), and of JBC members who aspire for reappointment.

With due respect to the critics, I believe in strengthening the anti-political shield of the judiciary, not in shoving it back to the partisan mud. To accomplish this goal, the Supreme Court should be empowered to appoint the JBC regular members representing (1) the retired Supreme Court justices, (2) the Integrated Bar, and (3) the legal academe. The President may appoint the representative of the private sector, without need of CA confirmation.

Under this proposal, the President will have two JBC representatives (the secretary of justice and the private sector appointee); Congress will also have two (a senator and a congressman); and the Supreme Court, four (the chief justice and the three others named by the Court). In this way, the nomination process will be further depoliticized and judicial independence better assured.

The JBC was created 20 years ago by the 1987 Constitution. Since then, the creation of similar councils has become a favorite global judicial reform project. It has been adopted, in one form or another, in more than 25 countries, especially in Europe and Latin America. This worldwide trend has been "heralded as a way of depoliticizing appointments, guaranteeing the selection of better judges, and advancing judicial independence."

A study, made by Judge Sandra Oxner of the Commonwealth Judicial Institute of Canada, shows this unmistakable direction. In some countries like France, Italy, Portugal and Spain, the councils—which are much larger in composition, averaging about 20 members—not merely nominate but in fact appoint the judges. Membership in these large councils sometimes includes the president of the country, as in France and Italy. More often, however, the chief justice chairs the council. In Japan, the system is simpler: the Supreme Court performs the work of the council.

Reforming JBC processes in the past. Systemic changes require a tedious process of constitutional amendment. In the meantime, the JBC has tried its best to confront criticisms in the conduct of its business. When it started operating in 1988, the JBC did not have any rules or personnel to assist it. Even the four regular members worked on part-time basis only.

On Oct. 10, 2000, the "Rules of the Judicial and Bar Council" were promulgated. The Rules were intended to implement the constitutional mandate that members of the judiciary must embody "proven competence, integrity, probity, and independence." At the instance of Sen. Aquilino Q. Pimental Jr. (when he was a JBC ex-officio member), the Rules were amended to allow a single member to veto the nomination of an applicant who has "questionable integrity."

Later on, the JBC required full time service from—and paid regular compensation (no longer just per diems) to—the four regular members so they could actively help in steering the council. In late 2005, the JBC hired a full time staff, led by an executive officer, to assist it in its administrative work, especially in verifying the candidates' "reputation for honesty, incorruptibility, irreproachable conduct and fidelity to sound moral and ethical standards."

To be more transparent, the JBC opened its interview of candidates to the media. However, it has refrained from mimicking legislative-type investigations, on the justification that, precisely, the JBC was created to shield judges from abrasive and insulting inquisitions that tend to diminish their dignity. As then chief justice, I launched on April 21, 2006 the JBC website (jbc.supremecourt.gov.ph), showing information about the council, its work and its processes.

Reforming the JBC further. Critics lament that, despite the above reforms, some unworthy candidates are still able to sneak into the JBC nomination list and get themselves appointed. Until the council is completely liberated from political influence, its members will simply have to work more heroically to nominate **only** the best and the brightest.

To help achieve this, I have some humble suggestions: (1) the names of the JBC members voting for candidates who make it to the nomination list should be made public, in the same manner that the votes of justices are made known; (2) the regular JBC members should observe, by analogy, the judges' code of ethics; for example, they should avoid socializing with candidates; and (3) the regular members—as the full-time vanguards of the judiciary—should, like judges, perform their work with same standard of "proven competence, integrity, probity and independence."

Next Sunday, I will take up the huge judicial vacancy.

* * *

Comments are welcome at chiefjusticepanganiban@hotmail.com.

Who's the willing puppet?

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

ANOTHER SKIRMISH HAS BEEN WON IN THE long, complicated struggle against the introduction of genetically-modified rice in this country.

As the INQUIRER reported yesterday, the Quezon City Regional Trial Court has issued a temporary restraining order against the Department of Agriculture (DA) and the Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI). The order prevents the government bodies from approving the application of Bayer Philippines to use LL62, a GMO or genetically modified organism, also known as Liberty Link Rice 62, for food, animal feed and processing.

Behind the petition against LL62 is Greenpeace, which filed the suit, together with other "concerned citizens," in the belief that the approval of LL62 for "food, feed and processing" is Bayer's way of introducing GMO rice through the backdoor. The Department of Agriculture has already officially shut the door on US rice imports, all of which are suspected of having been contaminated by genetically modified breeds because of widespread field trials there.

"We just stumbled upon the application for LL62," explains Danny Ocampo, the Southeast Asia Greenpeace genetic engineering campaigner, in an earlier interview. That is why, he said, the suit questions as well the entire approval process followed by the BPI for all GMOs, with no public consultation held, and the citizens' right to information ignored, if not suppressed altogether.

So far, says Ocampo, they know of 44 applications for the use of GMOs here, 40 of which are for use as "food, feed and processing," and four for propagation. "On average, approval is granted four or six months after an application is filed." This is why the process is called an "approval process," Ocampo notes. He adds that in other countries, notably Thailand and Vietnam which are also the world's biggest exporters of rice, authorities have adopted "very strict policies to protect their rice and subject all GMO applications to very stringent tests."

* * *

WHY the big to-do over GMO rice?

"Genetically-modified organisms" are living things which have been modified or changed by the manipulation of their genes, specifically of their DNA. This is why the modified organisms are not just "improvements" over the originals, but entirely new organisms, and as yet no long-term studies have been conducted on their impact not just on their kind, but on those who ingest what some have called "Frankenstein food" or "frankenfood."

Last year, Greenpeace raised a stink over the importation of "Uncle Sam Long Grain Rice" from the United States. This was tested and found to be a GMO. Even if the "Uncle Sam" rice were in bags and sacks, Greenpeace contended, it could still contaminate the other rice stocks in supermarkets around the country. Ocampo says he talked with Shopwise, the supermarket arm of retailing giant Rustan's, and the management agreed to voluntarily recall the "Uncle Sam" rice. The owners of Gokongwei-owned Robinson's replied that they would wait for orders from the National Food Authority, while Shoemart ignored Greenpeace completely; to use Ocampo's term, "*dinedma kami*." But Ocampo notes that a "New Uncle Sam" long grain rice has appeared once more in supermarket shelves, allegedly a GMO-free strain from Thailand.

The NFA has also restricted all rice imports from the United States, demanding that all importers issue a guarantee that their shipments are GMO-free. So far, though, no importer has been willing to certify the GMO-free status of their rice from the United States.

Also in town to follow events in the Greenpeace suit, among other concerns, is Jeremy Tager, Greenpeace International rice campaigner, who is based in Australia. Ocampo tells me that Tager met with scientists and agriculturists at the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) in Los Baños, as well as with those in PhilRice in Nueva Ecija for the latest developments in rice research, not necessarily involving genetic modification.

* * *

NOW for a bit of glitz in the proceedings.

The petitioners in the suit against the DA and BPI were Von Hernandez, campaigns director of Greenpeace Southeast Asia and the following as "concerned citizens": Wilhelmina "Ditdit" Pereggrina, executive director of the Southeast Asia Research Institute for Community Education (PhilRice); Sr. Arnold Maria Noel of the Ministry of Justice and Peace; Amanda Griffin and Angel Aquino, Greenpeace supporters and models/actresses; and Anna Theresa Licaros, a third year law student at UP Diliman and the current Binibining Pilipinas Universe.

At one hearing, Bayer's lawyer (from the Accra law firm), while questioning Licaros, branded her and the other "concerned citizen" petitioners as "willing puppets" who "do not know a thing" about GMOs.

Licaros took umbrage at this statement, saying it was "patronizing and insulting," and has made her all the more convinced that GMOs present risks to the health of Filipinos.

Lawyering for Greenpeace in this case is Theodore Te, who teaches at UP Law and who is Licaros' professor. And if joining with Greenpeace in a suit against GMOs makes one a "willing puppet," what does that make of lawyers arguing the case for a multinational seeking to sneak in GMO rice using a deceptive process?

* * *

A CORRECTION. In Friday's column, I mentioned a "reporter from ABS-CBN" who mentioned his "heroics" in getting a quote from former President Joseph Estrada as Erap was boarding a helicopter to take him back to his rest house in Tanay.

As a result, Luchi Cruz Valdez texted me to correct my failing memory. The reporter I mentioned was John Consulta of GMA-7. Seems that in zapping back and forth between the two networks to get as much news as I could on the Sandiganbayan verdict, I ended up confusing the two news reports. My apologies.

The necessity of universal health care

WORLD VIEW

Bjorn Lomborg and Philip Musgrove

THE BIGGEST HEALTH CHALLENGE FOR LATIN America and the Caribbean isn't a single disease or condition, and it won't be solved by aiming money at a single risky behavior. The biggest challenge is that people do not always get the health care they need.

Many people live far from a health care provider, and distance costs both time and money. Moreover, cultural barriers reduce the wellbeing of those who do not speak the dominant language, especially indigenous communities. In other cases, people don't realize they need care, or don't follow the doctor's directions. Similarly, mistaken beliefs are often a problem: for example, diabetes is referred to as "sugar," and diabetics erroneously believe that curbing sugar intake is the only thing they need to do.

Finance is another great barrier. In Mexico, before recent reforms, 2-4 million households either spent 30 percent or more of their disposable income or fell below the poverty line because of catastrophic health spending. Others simply do without the needed care.

When care is available, it is often inefficient or of substandard quality. Medical errors are so frequent that the World Health Organization has designed guidelines to ensure patient safety. A Mexican survey shows that poor patients (particularly indigenous women) usually receive worse private care than the wealthy, although the service in public institutions makes little difference.

The best—and most expensive—solution to these challenges is to provide universal insurance coverage.

Subsidized services should be delivered by qualified providers, whether they are public or private, for-profit or non-profit. This means rejecting the idea of expanding only the network of public facilities. The reasoning is practical, not ideological: private providers are often available in places lacking public facilities.

There can be different approaches. Chile requires all wage and salary earners to contribute 7 percent of their pay either to the National Health Fund or to a private insurer. The lower-paid tend to register with the public system, which is also financed from general revenues so that the poorest are fully subsidized. Mexico has chosen a targeted insurance scheme for households that are not covered by a social security scheme and are too poor to afford private insurance. Enrollment is voluntary; the poorest, who are fully subsidized, have preference and are required to participate in health promotion activities. Wealthier households contribute up to 5 percent of their disposable income.

Instead of a specific insurance scheme, Colombia created conditions for a new class of insurers to compete for clients. Though political resistance and financial limitations have slowed expansion, this is arguably the most far-reaching universal coverage scheme, because it creates competition among all kinds of insurers and health care providers.

These three countries' experiences make it clear there are different paths to universal insurance, and that a serious attempt to enroll the uninsured can have dramatic results. The Mexican scheme enrolled 1.7 million families by its second year, while the Colombian scheme signed up 13 million people within its first decade.

Another solution is to improve the quality of care. It is difficult to prescribe an approach for a single country, let alone for all of Latin America and the Caribbean. However, research shows that where health care is of low quality, training providers on basic protocols for diagnosing and treating common illnesses is very cost-effective, saving children's lives for as little as $14.

The third option to consider is a public information campaign about diseases, symptoms and risk factors. But while an expensive campaign to combat a particularly dangerous, communicable disease like HIV/AIDS makes sense, it is less clear that this approach works well when aimed at providing the public with general, health-related information.

Even so, providing universal health care access would almost certainly lead more people to consult doctors about their symptoms, and therefore would reinforce any education campaign. The effect would be even greater if training is improved so that health care quality is improved.

Concrete cost assessments for any of these proposals are difficult to make. Indeed, universal insurance is the only solution for which even approximate estimates are possible.

The Colombian insurance scheme costs around $164 for each person covered, or $83 for fully subsidized coverage with a less generous benefit package. Roughly 8 million Colombians eligible for the subsidy are already covered; since these include the poorest, the gain in health is almost surely greater than the 11-percent increase in real cost so far. Including the remaining 14 million who are eligible would cost about $1.16 billion.

The impact of universal access on how health care is paid for is perhaps larger than its impact on health status: the Colombian reform has dramatically reduced the share coming from households. Out-of-pocket spending on health care today is one-fourth the level of 10 years ago, and the reform has at least partly eliminated the old distinction between the insured rich and the uninsured poor.

Even without detailed cost-benefit analysis, it is clear that universal insurance coverage is vital. Being born poor or in a remote village should not consign anybody to the misery of going without decent health care. *Project Syndicate*

Bjorn Lomborg is the organizer of Copenhagen Consensus, adjunct professor at Copenhagen Business School and editor of the new book "How to Spend $50 Billion To Make The World A Better Place." Philip Musgrove is a deputy editor of Health Affairs and Adjunct Professor in the School of Advanced International Studies, Johns Hopkins University.

Mythmakers

THE DAY EDSA II EXPLODED IN 2001, I WAS SITTING ON the floor of a classmate's house, ripping apart old T-shirts and sewing ruffles on aprons for a school play. Unlike many of my generation, I can't claim to have been one of the thousands who went rampaging down the streets at midnight in protest to thwarted justice. Much crying, impassioned arguments and highly creative whining—"What will I tell my grandchildren?"—on my part fell on deaf ears.

REBEL WITHOUT A CLUE

Patricia Evangelista

My parents' ban was not so much due to any political bias; 16, they argued, was too young. My threats to run away to the rally were dismissed; they assumed I would bow to parental authority. They were wrong. What stopped me was that I couldn't figure out where Edsa was.

I'd like to explain how it was to live during that time, when afternoon television meant watching the news with my father and cheering with each pound of the gavel. The world shrank into the Senate Hall, cafeteria conversation with my best friends revolved around Loren Legarda's pearls and Miriam Defensor-Santiago's latest bombastic speech. It was, to all of us children who were babies during the 1986 People Power Revolution, like living on the cusp of history, and realizing that myth and legend and the grand old lessons in history books were real. Understand, at that time, right and wrong were as clear as night and day, and most of us were confident that when the time came to take a stand, we would not fail. All those text messages, all the noise barrages, all the letters to the editor and long patriotic essays, all of them were part of the ride. Estrada was the squinty-eyed, mustachioed villain, trying to break past the stalwart soldiers of the people. There were princesses in tears, dark knights with gold teeth, and a white-winged, fire-breathing dragon named Joker Arroyo. It was a time, I like to think, when we believed in heroes.

I've heard much of the commentary about the youth and their role in the post-Edsa II state. There have been accusations of apathy, many questions as to the depth of sincerity. It's fine, say pundits, for the older generation to be silent. They are battle-weary, tired of the long, hard ride to freedom. Perhaps a different reason, if not justification, must be applied for the generation called Gen Y. Many of those who cheered on Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's step to power were virgins to socio-political involvement, teenagers in pajamas whooping down the length of Katipunan, zipping off text messages howling for truth, justice, and Estrada and jail.

Six years down the road, the heroes have sold their capes and masks. Joker Arroyo has put aside his grand ideals for the sake of political machinery. Loren Legarda, who cried at the Senate vote not to open the controversial second envelope, ran for the Senate in the 2007 elections with the blessing of the same man she wanted put to justice in 2001. Manuel Villar has gone a-courting in Tanay, and GMA, who stepped in as the brilliant new hope for a buoyant citizenry, now heads a smiling government with blood on its hands.

And where, many ask, is that bright-eyed bunch toting sandwiches and boom boxes to Edsa? Typing away in corporate cubicles, manning call center units, volunteering for causes, studying for the bar exams. They are the fresh nurses who were caught up in the nursing board scandal, the college kids still scraping away to pay tuition. And if they're asked if they have faith in government, many will say no. And it's reasonable—after all, they stood, at the first blush of idealism, and saw what they stood for systematically and unapologetically destroyed.

I write this to explain, if only to myself, why I feel very little vindication at Estrada's conviction last Wednesday. That he is guilty I have no doubt, and have had little doubt since Clarissa Ocampo and Manuel Curato took the stand. But justice isn't the application of the law on a single culprit, it is the application of law on every culprit. Without that consistency, that impartiality to class, religion, position and connection, the law's capacity to deter only applies to those without power, or to those who have alienated the reigning power. The fact that laws are clear on right and wrong does very little when the application of that right and wrong is murky at best. And during the glorified regime of Gloria, very much is murky, murkiest of all is the application of the rule of law.

In many cases, to believe in the rule of law as spouted by military and government is to believe that leftists and activists were responsible for each others' murders, and that truth must only come at the behest of the Chief Executive. Any fair-minded individual who reads the papers today will note the spate of unexplained deaths favorable to the administration, the shopping list of questionable financial deals, the entire range of resolutions and pronouncements that gleefully crush individual rights, as well as the motley crew of thugs, lapdogs and pompous politicos that run freely.

It would be easier to celebrate Estrada's conviction in a vacuum, more comfortable to leave to the military and the courts and the various institutions questions of innocence and guilt. But to do so would fly in the face of logic and newspaper headlines. To celebrate the rule of law in the Philippines is not simply to stand on the side of right. The rule of law is buffeted by those that pull strings from above, and those who shove promises into judicial pockets. It is a complex creature, and one that is by no means loyal to the Filipino people.

I like to think I have enough idealism, enough faith to believe that there's more to Estrada's conviction than political maneuvering. Many of those who have read the justices' decision have applauded their bravery and fairness. But maybe that's the problem—politics and justice reduced to faith don't really amount to much in the face of current realities. And that's what I learned from Edsa II, six years down the road. There are no heroes, and those who pretend to be have their masks ripped off eventually.

* * *

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THEY SAID

Best journalism

"The best journalism has always come from dissidents."

—Indian journalist Palagummi Sainath, Ramon Magsaysay awardee for journalism, literature and creative communication arts

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Hospices offer compassionate care

AT ONE TIME OR ANOTHER, A FAMILY WILL BE TAKING CARE OF A SICK LOVED one. The 100 trillion cells inside each one of us are not programmed to last. They break down. As the book of Ecclesiastes says, there's a time for everything, including a time to be born and a time to die.

Whether a terminally ill person will be spending his or her remaining days in a hospital or at home depends on many factors—one's means, the family's compassion and support network, and the facilities available.

The growth of the hospice movement in the country now makes it possible for the terminally ill and those suffering from life-threatening ailments to stay at home where their physical and spiritual needs could be met.

Hospice care does not seek to cure. It seeks to provide a "better" quality of life during the remaining days of the patient.

Formally introduced in the Philippines in 1993, the hospice movement now counts 23 institutions and 520 service providers as members.

These organizations, which are generally supported by private individuals and groups, have formed the National Hospice and Palliative Care Council of the Philippines Inc. (Hospice Philippines) to promote palliative care across the country.

Hospice Philippines will host the 7th Asia-Pacific Hospice Conference this month. (For more information visit www.aphc2007.com).

Nurturing partnerships

By Asuncion B. Kalalo

HOSPICE AND PALLIATIVE CARE—COMPASSIONATE caring for terminally ill patients and those afflicted with life-threatening illnesses—is a relatively new concept of health care in the Philippines.

It was formally introduced in the Philippines in 1993 by a Filipino doctor who was once the president of the International Hospice Institute in Washington D.C.—Dr. Josephine Magno, now deceased.

The goal of hospice and palliative care is not to cure but to provide a "better" quality of life during the remaining days of a patient. It is a program designed to provide a caring environment to address the physical, social, medical, psychological and spiritual needs of the terminally ill patients and their families.

On Sept. 9, 2003, 13 hospice organizations and 76 service providers in the country formed themselves into a National Hospice and Palliative Care Council of the Philippines, Inc. (Hospice Philippines) to better promote and provide hospice and palliative care to patients all over the country.

To date, we have grown to 23 hospice institutions and 520 service providers.

Specialized institutions

We have specialized institutions like Kythe, a hospice care for children with branches nationwide, and Starfish for those afflicted with HIV/AIDS. Likewise, we have a half-way house, Child House, for hospice patients while awaiting treatment.

With the rising incidence of cancer and other life-threatening illnesses, such as HIV/AIDS, the hospice movement seeks to meet the challenge of serving, principally indigent patients.

Recent surveys show that cancer is the third cause of death in the Philippines. From January 1984 to July 2007 there were 2,916 reported HIV Ab seropositive cases of which 2,146 (74 percent) were asymptomatic and 770 (26 percent) AIDS cases.

Our members have served a growing number of hospice patients and their families. We cannot cite the actual number of patients at this time. There is a need to come up with a national registry of hospice patients similar to that being maintained by the Philippine Cancer Society for cancer patients.

Bereavement support

The care may include bereavement support in certain cases. Practitioners of hospice care need not be persons in the medical field, although their participation is always required. An individual imbued with compassion to care for the sick could be an excellent hospice service provider after appropriate training.

In the Philippine setting, family members, who provide physical and emotional care for the patient, are also looked after by the hospice service providers.

One of the most challenging tasks of hospice facilities is the recruitment of volunteers. Hospice care is essentially difficult and volunteers must have a special calling for this particular vocation.

To deal with death openly, as one takes care of a patient, requires strength that can only come from a conviction for the noble purpose of accompanying a person on a walk to his or her new home as "midwife for the soul."

This challenge was met by strengthening Hospice Philippines' training programs and networking with international organizations to enable our volunteers to train abroad. There is a need to have more trainors and training facilities to hasten the formation of hospice units in the country.

As a new program for the care of terminally ill patients or those afflicted with life-threatening illnesses, the nongovernment umbrella organization sees the need for government support.

Because its members are principally serving the indigent, the Department of Health, through the health secretary, provides morphine to patients of member organizations.

Medical insurance

Hospice Philippines is also advocating the inclusion of hospice and palliative care in the government medical insurance program to provide security and support to patients facing financial problems in confronting their illnesses.

It will also alleviate the worries of patients knowing that when they are finally gone their families would not be saddled with expenses caused by their illness.

Funding for the activities of various hospice organizations that are dispensing services for free is a problem that needs to be solved. While the volunteers are serving for free, the administrative staff, consisting of at least a medical doctor, a nurse or caregiver and a social worker on full-time or part-time basis need to be remunerated.

Private groups

At present, these organizations are generally funded by private individuals or groups.

Hospice Philippines would seek the endorsement of the Office of the President for the inclusion of hospice and palliative care facilities as beneficiaries of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) and Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. In addition, we would seek Presidential endorsement for PCSO to provide hospice institutions accredited with Hospice Philippines with ambulances to serve their indigent patients.

On the level of the local government, there is a need for health workers, especially the barangay health workers to be part of the multidisciplinary hospice team in their municipalities and cities. They will be trained as hospice volunteers to refer patients in their area and deliver hospice and palliative care services.

This is the potential growth area for hospice care in the countryside and it is urgent that support be extended to this group.

(Atty. Asuncion B. Kalalo is the president of the National Hospice and Palliative Care Council of the Philippines Inc. [Hospice Philippines], and Ayala Alabang Hospice Care Foundation Inc. [Alabang Hospice].)

Special calling

By Ma. Elisa F. Allado

WHEN I GRADUATED from high school, I wanted to become a doctor. However, my father advised me against it. He said, "That is such a long course. You might not get married. You need to specialize abroad to gain recognition here. Your patients cannot pay you. It is mostly charity work." Hence, I ended up with a BSBA Management diploma.

After college, I had an eight-year stint in government, completed my masters in Business Administration, got married and bore four children. The ensuing years were spent multitasking as wife, mother and entrepreneur.

Stroke

In 1990, my father had a stroke and was diagnosed with cancer of the kidney. He never recovered and needed nursing care specially when the cancer metastasized to the brain. Because he refused to be confined to a hospital, we took care of him at home.

This was my first exposure to hospice care. We bought all the necessary hospital equipment and hired special nurses on 12-hour shifts. For two years, the family members attended to his physical and spiritual needs, doting over him and showering him with love and care.

We were all around him when he took his last breath. It was such a beautiful death that no tears were shed. The wake and burial were marked with fun and laughter.

A doctor at 50

It was at this time when my interest in Medicine was again awakened. After a lot of praying and serious thinking and with financial support from my siblings, I took a step toward fulfilling my dream. Defying age, a failing memory, and five major surgeries, I became a doctor at age 50.

During residency training in Family Medicine, I learned active listening and counseling skills, which prepared me for an advocacy in hospice and palliative care.

My first post-training hospice work involved a friend and former officemate at the Board of Investments whose husband was diagnosed with metastatic lung cancer. He refused to have additional procedures and drastic measures done so the family called me in for alternative pain management (acupuncture) aside from the pain medications he was already taking.

With the help of a hospice team, he was cared for by his wife and four sons at home. During the six-month period before his death, he was able to properly turn over the family business and his personal assets to his wife and children, resolve personal issues with his family, and even choose his manner of dying.

Volunteer work

Last year, I volunteered as a home care physician at the Alabang Hospice, a church-based facility extending free services to indigent terminally ill patients in Muntinlupa, Las Piñas and Parañaque.

Friends and colleagues ask me, "Why hospice care? It is so emotionally draining!" I reply, "Yes, that's true. But I sleep well at night realizing that I have so much to thank for. It helps with my personal healing as well."

With a team, I am able to help patients and their family accept the patients' imminent death and prepare for it, improve the patients' quality of life by alleviating pain and discomfort, and help them deal with unresolved issues before they die.

Private clinic

At present, I am the treasurer of our family construction business and have a private clinic at my residence in Quezon City. I am also involved in purely voluntary work with the Rotary Club of New Manila Heights, Kabisig ng Kalahi, and Quezon City Red Cross.

Since I started hospice work a year ago, I have attended to 20 patients in Ayala Alabang, a patient in San Mateo and six patients in Quezon City. I do my home visits in Alabang every Sunday while for other patients I go as often as needed.

For me, the best gift to any person is a peaceful death. To be able to assist in giving that gift to a terminally ill patient is a privilege. I am honored and grateful for this privilege. My only hope is that when my time comes, I shall receive the gift as well.

(Ma. Elisa F. Allado is a home-care physician at Alabang Hospice.)

Community-based center

MADRE DE AMOR HOSPICE Center in Los Baños, Laguna handles 30 to 35 patients every week. It has two registered nurses, 40 volunteers, one doctor and one administrative staff.

Each patient is seen by at least two volunteers every week, with each visit lasting for 30 minutes to one hour.

The patients are cared for in their homes.

The center has not encountered abandoned patients. In the event its staff encounter one, they will refer the patient to the Department of Social Welfare and Development and would look after the patient in the facility where he or she would be confined.

A volunteers' training module is available at the center. To date, they have conducted 31 training sessions all over the country. The trainors are the staff of the center who share their experiences.

From time to time, the center invites speakers for special topics. The center has an in-house facility for training but its staff travel to other hospice centers for training sessions if requested.

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Freeing Erap is in RP's best interest, says Gonzales

By Michael Lim Ubac

IT IS IN THE NATION'S BEST interest to release plunder convict Joseph Estrada from detention, according to National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales.

Gonzales said the "spirit of reconciliation" was "the best" way to write *finis* to a troubled political era. "I don't want this issue to drag on. [The Arroyo administration] has less than three years left in office. These issues should be [resolved] now," he said, adding:

"I'm in favor of freeing former President Erap."

Gonzales said he favored a pardon over amnesty, "which will require a law."

Asked why, he said: "I think the former President has suffered enough. The best way is to finish it already. Let's close the book."

Estrada is qualified for a presidential pardon, having turned 70 in April. But he has repeatedly said that he would not accept a pardon because it would be an admission of guilt.

Gonzales said Estrada and President Macapagal-Arroyo were both "victims of history."

"One had to become President, the other has to go to jail. That's their difference in political circumstances. Let's look at it from that point of view," he said.

Question of guilt

Gonzales made a similar pitch over Vice President Noli de Castro's radio program, "Para sa Iyo, Bayan."

"In my view, the people will make their own verdict. I think President Estrada should now be freed. The question of guilt should no longer be discussed," he said in Filipino.

Gonzales said a number of lawmakers wanted Estrada to be included in the recently signed amnesty proclamation for communist rebels because this would not require an admission of guilt.

But Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, who was also interviewed by De Castro on the same program, corrected this notion, saying amnesty required an admission of guilt, as based on Supreme Court decisions.

Santiago, an expert in constitutional law, also clarified that while the President could grant amnesty for political offenses like rebellion and sedition, this would require the concurrence of both chambers of Congress.

On the other hand, a pardon, whether conditional or absolute, may be given by the President alone, she said.

Santiago expressed the belief that Ms Arroyo was not inclined to grant Estrada an absolute pardon because this might encourage him to do things to destabilize her administration.

The senator also said the problem could have been avoided had the Sandiganbayan found Estrada guilty only of graft and corruption, which is punishable by imprisonment of 6 to 12 years.

Estrada has been in detention for six years.

Applicable to all

But according to Romulo Macalintal, Ms Arroyo's election lawyer, the grant of amnesty to Estrada would be a "discriminatory act" by Congress.

He said in a text message that amnesty applied to a group or class of persons, and that if Estrada would be granted such, Congress should do the same for "all prisoners convicted of a lesser offense."

Macalintal also said Ms Arroyo should not offer a pardon to her predecessor but should wait for him to apply for it.

"Even sinners have to ask for God's forgiveness before they are pardoned of sins," he pointed out.

He added that if Estrada had expressed disdain for a pardon, that decision should be respected.

On Thursday, Cagayan de Oro Rep. Rufus Rodriguez said an "all-encompassing" amnesty might be acceptable to Estrada.

"A pardon will not be acceptable because it will entail an admission of guilt," said Rodriguez, spokesperson of Estrada's Partido ng Masang Pilipino and a longtime ally of the ousted President.

A la Jimmy Carter

Asked if destabilization attempts would end if Estrada were pardoned, Gonzales said: "I think it will really depend on what the former President would be doing should he be given a pardon."

Gonzales, who visited Estrada at the latter's vacation estate in Tanay, Rizal, two weeks ago, said the latter had talked about "engaging in humanitarian projects all over the world," like former US President Jimmy Carter.

"That kind of intention should be [considered]," Gonzales said.

He said a freed Estrada could "really contribute to a better future for our people" because the latter was "very committed to the poor of our country."

With reports from Cynthia D. Balana and Beverly T. Natividad

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'Premature ejaculation,' says Erap lawyer

From page A1

Tanay, Rizal, to plan their next move.

It was a quiet meeting, away from the media glare that had attended the Wednesday promulgation of the Sandiganbayan's guilty verdict against Estrada.

Saguisag and the other members of the defense—Estelito Mendoza, father and son Jose and Jay Flaminiano, and Anna Liza Logan—engaged in light banter with their client over Spanish food laid out in a roofed pavilion with a Maranao motif, as a drizzle fell.

In the end, the lawyers decided to file a motion for reconsideration, and left Estrada with high hopes that the verdict could be overturned.

"He was upbeat," Saguisag said of his 70-year-old client. "We were in a huddle for some time. He was his usual witty self, he was very relaxed. Very charming, that guy."

Per Saguisag's account, Estrada left his lawyers every now and then to welcome a stream of visitors, including his sons Sen. Jinggoy Estrada and San Juan Mayor JV Ejercito, Cebu Archbishop Ricardo Cardinal Vidal, Sen. Mar Roxas and former Finance Secretary Jose Pardo.

JV Bautista and Argee Guevarra of Sanlakas also turned up.

Three days after the verdict was handed down, policemen guarding Estrada and his detention quarters remained on heightened alert, asking every visitor to sign in and checking each vehicle's rear compartment.

Legal weapon

After discussing the "errors" in the verdict, the defense lawyers reached a consensus to file a motion asking the antigraft court to reconsider its ruling, and estimated that they could knock off one of two "predicate crimes" in the case.

"We decided to file a motion for reconsideration," Saguisag said. "We will never drop a weapon that the law provides."

The defense has 15 days, or until Sept. 27, to file the motion. It had earlier also considered the option of filing an appeal directly with the Supreme Court.

Saguisag voiced confidence that the defense could overturn one of the two counts in Estrada's plunder conviction.

The antigraft court had pronounced Estrada guilty of systematic collection of P545 million in illegal gambling payoffs and receipt of P189 million in commissions from stock purchases made using state pension funds.

After the fierce legal battle began in 2001, the defense managed to get "eight-and-a-half" cases dismissed out of the nine original cases filed by the prosecution against Estrada, Saguisag said.

"We are hoping we can knock off one of them [before we go to the Supreme Court]," he said, referring to the illegal act of receiving kickbacks from the numbers game *"jueteng."*

In a separate phone interview, Jay Flaminiano said Estrada was "upbeat after hearing the assessment of the lawyers."

Estrada agreed with the decision to file the motion, Flaminiano said, adding:

"His morale was boosted, and his spirits were buoyed up."

Flaminiano also said the "errors" in the court's decision, including the conclusions and assumptions that had led to it, would be spelled out in the defense's motion for reconsideration.

Too early

According to Saguisag, it was too early for the prosecution to celebrate the verdict.

"You don't celebrate after the third quarter. It's the first time I heard of a championship being won after the third quarter. There's still the fourth quarter and, who knows, even an extension after that," he said, chuckling.

The defense will base its legal argument on the prosecution's failure to indicate in the information that Estrada had received jueteng money "by reason of his public office," Saguisag said.

"There was no allegation that it was received by reason of his public office. That's one of the elements of plunder," he said.

"After all this is over, and the prosecution is ahead, they can uncork their champagne," he added.

Republic of the Philippines
CAREER EXECUTIVE SERVICE BOARD
Diliman, Quezon City

Isang Karangalan ang Maglingkod sa Bayan

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Career Executive Service Board (CESB) announces the validation/background investigation of the following candidates for CES eligibility:

No.	Name	Position	Agency
1	Abcede, Ramon Fiel Guinto	Chief Admin Officer	DepEd
2	Abelgas, Norma De Guzman	Division Chief	BOT
3	Abella, Desiree Mabaquiao	Chief	TRANSCO
4	Agapito, Vilma Pioquinto	Branch Head	SSS
5	Aguilos Jr., Florencio Granados	Board Secretary VI	NWPC
6	Alejandro, Leah Casia	Supvg. TIDS	DTI
7	Alejandro, Romeo Villaroya	Corporate Staff Officer	NTC
8	Almadrigo, Florence Barros	Division Chief	BOT
9	Almanon, Corazon Masangkay	Division Manager A	PPA
10	Alo, Edwin Manlawe	Senior Attorney/OIC Branch Head	SSS-Reg. X
11	Alva, Ma. Corazon Tiu	Bank Officer III	BSP
12	Andres, Robert Carbonilla	SEC Technical Assistant	SEC
13	Angeles Jr., Bernardo Fernando	Senior Executive Asst.	CDC
14	Anino, Marissa Pancha	Chief Accounts Specialist	DBP
15	Añonuevo, Rolando Delos Reyes	Police Senior Supt.	PNP
16	Antoni, Cesar Biaco	Department Manager	SBGFC
17	Antonio, Irmingardo Romero	Division Medical Officer IV	DepEd
18	Aquilizan, Ma. Lourdes Pacis	Information Technology Officer II	NCC
19	Arellano, Antonio Biñas	Regional State Prosecutor	DOJ
20	Barrera, Romel Morte	Corporate Attorney	PDIC
21	Bernasor, Jose Jeffrey Villamor	Local Govt. Operations Officer V	DILG
22	Boco, Prisco Obregoso III	Supervising Engineer A	NIA
23	Borlongan, Eugene Verzosa	Section Chief	PDIC
24	Bueno, Severina Soriano	OIC Asst. Regional Director	BFAR-DA
25	Bustamante, Percenito Obon	City Gen. Services Officer	LGU
26	Canaberal, Carlos Factor	Planning Officer V	POEA
27	Caneta, Lopa Labang	Division Manager	TRANSCO
28	Capino, Ma. Consolacion Nasol	Administrative Officer V	DENR
29	Carbonell, Geoderick Estabillo	Corporate Attorney	PDIC
30	Carillo, Jovencio Costales	Police Senior Supt.	PNP
31	Carmen, Josita Bruzon	ASDS	DepEd
32	Carreon, Ma. Angelina Maduro	Supvg. TESD Specialist	TESDA
33	Chico, Eduardo Arnigo Jr.	Police Superintendent	PNP
34	Conde, Charlotte Imbat	Department Manager	LBP
35	Colapte, Carmencita Sumalinog	ASDS	DepEd
36	Crisostomo, Alfredo Pacifico	Manager	TRANSCO
37	Cui, Maria Joferdine Yared	Acting Branch Head	LBP
38	Dasalla, Philip De Vera	Division Manager	TRANSCO
39	Datu, Flordelis Mejia	Supervising RARS	PDIC
40	De Guzman, Marietta Maglaya	Sales and Promo Supv. V	NPO
41	De Leon, Carmelino Laquindanum	Asst. Vice President	TRANSCO
42	Dela Cruz, Isagani Solomon	ASDS	DepEd
43	Dela Cruz, Leon Nilo Aquino	Senior Superintendent	PNP
44	Deveraturda, Precy Zenarosa	OIC Provl. Statistics Officer	NSO
45	Dizon, Elizabeth Tortona	Bank Officer IV	BSP
46	Doblas, Janette Bartolo	Supvg. Legislative Staff Officer I	SENATE
47	Dumadag, Heracleo Yap III	Division Manager	Surigao Metro Water District
48	Edres, Camad Acas	Director III	NAPC
49	Elma, Manuel Orr III	Senior Merchandiser	PITC
50	Escultura, Noreen Pamalmal	Director II	UP
51	Espino, Ma. Cristina Evangelista	Bank Officer II	BSP
52	Espos, Edna Astorga	Bank Executive Officer	BSP
53	Estrellado, Andreo Ortanez	Corporate Staff Officer	TRANSCO
54	Ferrer, Ma. Lourdes de Guzman	Div. Chief/OIC-Dir.	DENR
55	Fontanilla, Luz Perpetua Perez	Supvg. Administrative Officer	Prvl Govt.
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58	Garcia, Rommel Luy	Deputy Exec. Director	DDB
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63	Guiamadel, Mae Ester Tapuyao	Chief Economic Devt. Specialist	NEDA
64	Guillermo, Amelia Agbuya	Section Head	SSS
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66	Gutierez, Eleuterio Nicolas Jr.	Police Superintendent	PNP
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68	Ingeniero, Juan Jovian Evangelista	Local Govt. Operations Officer VI	DILG
69	Jalandoni, Marilu Bermejo	Manager I	BSP
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120	Zapatos, Salvacion Jennifer Basan	Acting Head	LBP

Please forward all information, feedback or report on or before September 24, 2007 to the Office of the Executive Director, CESB, No. 3 Marcelino Street, Holy Spirit Drive, Diliman, QC; or e-mail to erad@cesboard.gov.ph, or fax to 951-4983 or 951-3306.

All information received by the CESB shall be considered with STRICT CONFIDENTIALITY.

(Sgd.) MA. ANTHONETTE VELASCO-ALLONES
Executive Director

September 16, 2007

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Senate urged to probe Cebu smuggling

CEBU CITY—AN OFFICIAL OF A GROUP OF customs brokers here yesterday asked the Senate to investigate the rampant smuggling of cars through the Cebu port.

Ricky Gantuangco, executive vice president of the Visayas chapter of the Professional Customs Brokers Association of the Philippines (PCBAP), said his group knew the identities of brokers and importers who were conniving with customs officials in smuggling used luxury cars, but was helpless.

He said some officials of the PCBAP feared harassment from customs officials if they involved themselves in the investigation.

Some PCBAP members import surplus vehicles.

"To even the playing field, especially since only a few privilege people are enjoying it, we hope a Senate or a congressional inquiry would (also) be conducted," he said.

Gantuangco said car smuggling in Cebu has been hurting the legitimate business of brokers and importers who are members of the PCBAP.

He said investigators should zero in on brokers whose earnings are too big to be explained by their legitimate importation.

Some customs officials demand P30,000 in bribe from brokers and importers for every container van loaded with smuggled vehicles.

Bribes, known in customs jargon as tara or suborno, have become part of standard operating procedures in the port of Cebu, he said.

"You can ask those brokers who are into that activity, they can tell you exactly how much they are giving to the customs officials," said Gantuangco. "It's already alarming."

> 'Smuggling is so prevalent… that people think that it is normal already'

The Cebu Auto Dealers Association (Cada) earlier said Cebu has become a prime destination for smuggled luxury car, prompting the Visayas Ombudsman to start an investigation.

Records from the Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers in the Philippines (Campi) said legitimate car dealers sold 1,686 cars and 3,274 other vehicles but the Land Transportation Office registered 3,584 cars and 21,637 other vehicles.

Jose Manuel Cuenco, Cada president, said his group supports Gantuangco's call for a Senate investigation.

"(Car) smuggling is so prevalent in Cebu that people think that it is normal already… This must be stopped," he said.

Cada had written Finance Secretary Margarito Teves to put a stop to the smuggling. There was no response yet.

The customs bureau started an investigation, but its officials are already saying that smuggling was impossible because the port of Cebu has a sophisticated X-ray machine that could detect contraband in closed container vans.

These officials said the smuggled cars could have entered through other ports and were brought to Cebu as domestic cargo.

The Department of Transportation and Communications also started an investigation. *Jolene R. Bulambot, Inquirer Visayas*

Peñafrancia rites drawing near 300th year

MORE THAN A MILLION PILgrims, devotees, tourists come to Naga City in September for the nine-day festivities in honor of Our Lady of Peñafrancia, the Patroness of Bicol.

The festivities began with the famous Traslacion procession during which the images of the Lady of Peñafrancia and the Divino Rostro (Holy Face) are brought by barefoot male *voyadores* from the Basilica through the main streets of the city to the Cathedral.

Thousands of devotees take part in the procession that usually lasts for four hours.

The devotion started almost 300 years ago in 1710, when Fr. Miguel Robles de Covarrubias had an image carved, a chapel built and processions held in honor of the miraculous image of the Virgin of Peñafrancia.

Since then, the devotion has grown and expanded in other countries.

Devotees' accounts of healing and favors helped spread the devotion.

Many have come to Naga as curious visitors and left as devotees of the Virgin. In 2010, the devotion shall mark its 300th year.

The Archdiocese of Caceres, in a statement, said it outlined a three-year preparation for the 300th year of the devotion.

Year 1 (September 2007-September 2008) will be dedicated to a deeper understanding of the devotion.

Year 2 (September 2008-2009) will be dedicated to a more vibrant and relevant life for devotees.

Year 3 (September 2009-September 2010) will be dedicated to future generations of devotees.

Today, the solemn feast of the Lady will be observed by the entire Bicol region.

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MS ARROYO during one of her visits in Subic. The SCTEx is one of her flagship projects. LYN RILLON

GMA aide says Japan engineer countered President's orders

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—The Japanese resident engineer of the national flagship project Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway has disapproved the construction of an interchange at the Porac-Angeles City boundary that President Macapagal-Arroyo approved in August, according to the chair of the Subic-Clark Alliance for Development Council.

"The [Advocacy for the Development of Central Luzon] area is not suitable for the interchange because the resident engineer, Mr. [Masayoshi] Komagamine, did not approve of the interchange because the distance between the two [Pasig-Potrero and Sapang Bato] bridges where the interchange of ADCL is located, is narrow," SCADC chair, Secretary Edgardo Pamintuan, told the INQUIRER yesterday.

Komagamine's supposed position against the ADCL site in Barangay Manuali in Porac could not be confirmed.

No reply

Narciso Abaya, president and chief executive of the Bases Conversion Development Authority, the proponent of the SCTEx, has not replied to a query on Komagamine's stand.

Abaya had told Pampanga Gov. Eddie Panlilio, San Fernando Mayor Oscar Rodriguez, ADCL and Pampanga Chamber of Commerce and Industry leaders in a forum here last Friday that the Manuali site was "probably the best compromise among competing locations."

"My stand is personal. The most compelling reason for me is that this was the directive of the President to me," Abaya had said.

Vice Gov. Joseller Guiao, who lobbied together with the ADCL for the Manuali site, doubted if Komagamine actually turned down that location.

"The BCDA will not approve it if the Japanese consultant has not approved it. The BCDA is preparing plans for it. It will be the first to know [if the area is suitable or not]," Guiao said when reached by phone.

Guiao said the Manuali site has been supported by legislative councils in San Fernando and Angeles cities.

"The President herself issued a directive. No other person can reverse the President except herself," Guiao said, referring to the directive publicly announced by Ms Arroyo during the groundbreaking rites of the Texas Instruments in Clark on Aug. 16.

Lapid turf

Pamintuan said he, Sen. Manuel "Lito" Lapid and Pampanga Rep. Carmelo Lazatin are lobbying for two interchanges. Lapid's proposed site is in Planas in his hometown Porac. Pamintuan and Lazatin want an interchange at Friendship/Margot.

According to Pamintuan, the projects have the support of Public Works Secretary Hermogenes Ebdane Jr., Presidential Management Staff Director General Cerge Remonde, National Economic and Development Authority Director General Augusto Santos and civic organizations in Angeles City and Porac.

Constructing those two interchanges would not require the BCDA and the national government to shell out public lands to buy right-of-way from private landowners, he said.

According to him, Lapid had convinced the Puyat family to donate some lands at Planas. Pamintuan denied owning a 33-hectare land at Margot.

Donations

ADCL chair Rene Romero said many of the landowners from Manuali to Angeles City have "signified their intention to help the government by donating some portions of their lands to spur development in their communities."

Abaya had said that the original proposed interchanges were scrapped on the Pampanga side due to lack of funds. *Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon*

INQUIRER Mindanao

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Lost healing dance of 'babaylan' revived

By Jeffrey M. Tupas
Makilala, North Cotabato

PI VILLARAZA heals a participant by tapping the energies on the foot.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

THIN WISPS of smoke from burning incense emitted a strong scent that made me feel mystical.

In a corner of the hall, a woman sat on a mat, her eyes closed, silently making quick but graceful jolts as music played softly on the background.

Eight other persons, including a university student and I, have formed a huge circle, with the burning incense, a bottle of aromatic oil, and a lighted red candle in the middle.

I was starting to go through an experience that I never thought I would do.

With legs crossed and feeling relaxed, I felt the urge to close my eyes as a strange feeling started to envelop me. Without the slightest idea of what must be done or what will happen, I allowed the feeling to overwhelm me for a moment, while maintaining my skepticism.

Moments later, someone came near me, touched my head and several parts of my back, including my spine and elbows. I felt like someone was talking to me, whispering something in a language I could not understand.

Electric current

I felt a voltage of electricity from a very strong powerhouse enter my spine and spread all over my body.

Then the body succumbed to the flow of energy from somewhere and someone unknown, dancing to the music that shifted from slow to fast and exciting. It was overwhelming to feel the body create forms and do non-choreographed floor routines that would have been scary had I been "awake."

Flashes of colors and forms came from behind a black backdrop—yellow, blue, green, circles, fingers caressing the wind and touching the water.

Had I been in control, I would not have chosen to tumble and fall on my face and my back so dangerously for countless times.

For several times, too, I saw myself roll, crawl and rest in childlike curls that are followed by elaborate flings and swishes of the arms and legs, the latter I can barely lift for lack of muscle flexibility training. For how can I also explain my almost 10-minute self-beating of the legs and chest that created a rhythm so pleasant to listen to that I felt like I was a human percussion instrument.

While the body was spontaneously dancing, doubt was forgotten and fear was never felt. There was an overflowing feeling of bliss like the unexplainable force was comforting and assuring that everything will be alright.

And I ended the almost three-hour dance with a strange feeling of lightness, unscathed or hurt.

Energy

Inner dancing, according to Pompet Pi Villaraza, happens when a person becomes conscious of his or her own energy and that of the surrounding environment, and becoming the energy itself. It is, he added, bringing back a person's kundalini, the feminine energy which can be accessed from a person's spine.

"The dance makes you feel and experience that you are made up of energy. You find energy within and then the body spontaneously moves. The palm opens and you gather your energy and you become a powerhouse then you can do healing," said Pi who rediscovered inner dancing in a Palawan island called Kalipay, a Cebuano term for happiness, several years ago.

Pi, Villaraza's "revealed name" for Mindanao, Visayas and Manila, said the dance allows a person to feel the ball of light on the palm and enables him or her to transfer that energy to other people, hence the snowballing effect. He cited how some children, who also experienced the dance were able to heal other people without them memorizing the basics of natural healing.

Now, inner dancing is attracting quite a number of people from all over the country—the affluent, the professionals, farmers, healers, artists, among others. Pi and a couple of his colleagues have stationed themselves with a group of farmers practicing natural agriculture in a village in Makilala close to majestic Mt. Apo.

Pi explained that for a long time, Filipinos have been deprived of the energy rediscovered through inner dancing, especially with the "extinction" of the *babaylan* (priestess).

> 'For a long time, Filipinos have been deprived of the energy rediscovered through inner dancing, especially with the extinction of the babaylan'

Also called Kali-Pi Mu (Your happiness), inner dancing was performed by Filipino indigenous priests and priestesses who held ancient secrets and wisdoms, according to the Inner Dance website. When the Roman Catholic demonized these tribal shamas during the Spanish colonization of the Philippines, the healing ritual also vanished with them.

Troy Bernardo, an inner dance practitioner, described Kali-Pi Mu as a three-fold name.

"Kali-Pi Mu (also) means Our Tribe. Kali is taken from the word kalis, meaning blade. The syllable ka represents the word kaalaman, which means knowledge or wisdom, while Li refers to lihim or secret. Put this together and you find the source of the ritual's secret wisdom," Bernardo said.

Bliss

He also pointed the seeming merry coincidence that the word Pi also represents the Philippine Islands. He also pointed how, as a mathematical symbol (Pi= 3.14159 or the ratio of a circle's circumference), the Pi is "called the transcendental real number—it is also known as the divine number, since no man can ever calculate it precisely, thus putting the digits at the heart of the divine circle."

The word Mu represents the so-called vanished continent Lemuria "thought to have been located in the Pacific Ocean and believed by many psychics to have deep spiritual ties with The Philippines."

"People, who have undergone Kali-Pi Mu gatherings, report an immediate sensation of bliss, intense happiness and spiritual ecstasy, and later on, rapid acceleration of spiritual evolution. Some go through an involuntary dance, mostly with heightened abandon in such elevated states," Bernardo said.

A corporate executive related in a blog post how she drove home after going through inner dance "feeling light of heart and light of movement."

"I usually get very tense driving (on Edsa, who doesn't?) but this time I sat up without feeling the usual weight on my spine. It was as if I was being held up by a hundred balloons on a string! High na high *ako pauwi*; If I could sum up the experience in one word, it would be this: Happiness," she said.

There was also Marwin of Cebu who drew circles on a piece of paper and wrote the names of the members of his family so well using his left hand when he is right-handed.

Pi said his role is to unleash the energy of the participants so they could reach their higher selves.

"Scary, silly, or sublime forms of the dance, they are nonetheless powerful moments that leave us in awe of seeing the unreal turn into very real forms at the twirl of a finger, the crack of a wrist, or the swaying of your arms," Pi said.

"We can pretend that there are aliens, *diwatas* (deities), monsters speaking through us, but we all know that all parts are filters only, no matter how open we might be. Here are our true selves. The screams, the laughter, the tears are real. As real as those strange deities, ancients, nature spirits and alien forms you've seen," Pi added.

Articles about Kali-Pi Mu can be read at www.innerdance.multiply.com

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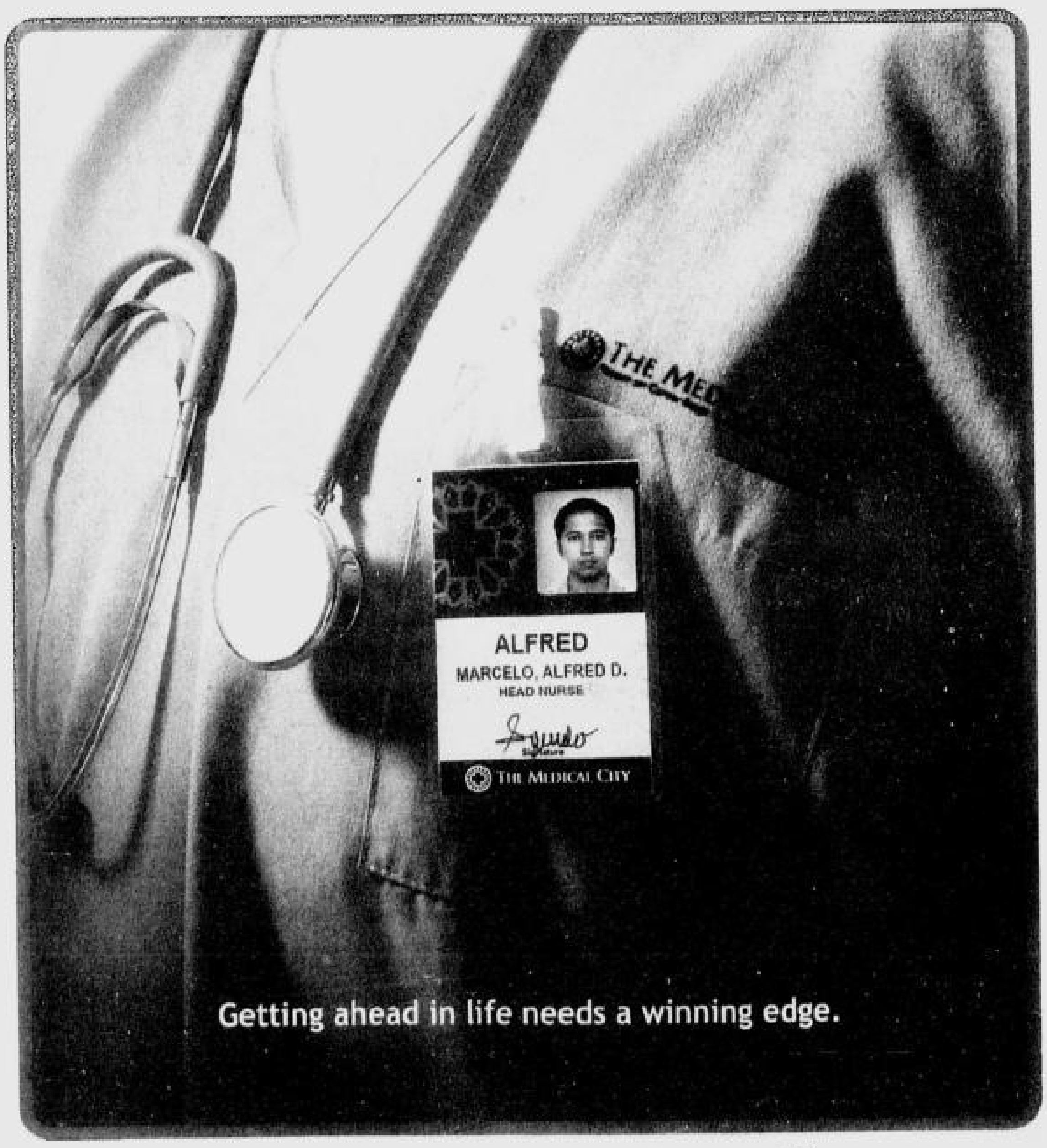

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'Cleaning up environment begins with us'

Manila's Cardinal Rosales urges folk to do bit for planet at home, work

By Beverly T. Natividad

THE COUNTRY SHOULD START ADDRESSING THE PROBLEM of climate change or there won't be any more miracles to save the environment, said Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales.

In a statement, Rosales called on the people to do their part in addressing the problems of global warming and climate change. While action has been demanded of the government, he said, the people must start doing their bit at home.

"We must start with ourselves and our families. As a people and as a country, we are in a position to do our part in addressing climate change," he said.

Individuals, he said, could start by inculcating energy efficiency and conservation measures in their daily lives, in their work places and communities. Simple acts like using less electricity and gasoline, planting trees, segregating garbage and avoiding a wasteful lifestyle could do a lot, Rosales said.

On the national level, Rosales said the people could ask the government to prioritize the use of renewable energy sources since the country is abundantly blessed with it.

Rosales in August had urged the faithful to pray for much-needed rain in the face of a threatened dry spell.

The cardinal issued an *Oratio Imperata Ad Petendam Pluviam* (Obligatory Prayer to Request for Rain) and Intercessory Prayers for Rain to be prayed at all Masses.

VOLUNTEERS pick up the garbage on Manila Bay in yesterday's observance of International Coastal Clean-up Month. RYAN LIM

And though the rains came, Rosales said the faithful "cannot continually test God's mercy and providence."

The warming of the planet, he pointed out, is not a natural occurrence but mainly man-made.

"Unless we reform our ways, there will be no miracles for us in the future," he said.

Clean-ups were held in many parts of the country yesterday in celebration of International Coastal Clean-Up Month.

In Manila, volunteers collected the trash on Manila Bay.

In Makati City, officials unclogged and dredged P. Medina creek in Barangay Pio del Pilar.

Mayor Jejomar Binay said the city's creeks, sewer system and other waterways were regularly cleared of trash that block the water flow.

"We regularly do this to reduce the volume of garbage and improve the city's flood control system. These two aspects of our environmental program are crucial to maintaining cleanliness," Binay said.

The clean-up in Metro Manila was dubbed "Buhayin at Ipaglaban Malinis na Katubigan ng Bayan" and was conducted in coordination with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Association of Metro Manila Environment Officers.

In Legazpi City, some 500 volunteers turned out to collect the debris on the banks of the Yawa River and in the coral reefs in the waters off the city.

"After this activity, coastal municipalities across the [Bicol] region will be organizing their own [clean-ups]. They will be conducting [these] the rest of the month," DENR Regional Director Gilberto Gonzales said.

Coastal Clean-Up Month is held worldwide every third Saturday of September. It was started in 1986 by Ocean Conservancy, an international nongovernmental organization. *With reports from Julie M. Aurelio, in Manila, and Jaymee T. Gamil, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

Labor panel exec charged in ₱11-M graft

THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION has filed charges with the Ombudsman against an official of the National Labor Relations Commission (NLRC) for alleged malversation of over P11 million in public funds.

Alan Contado, chief of the NBI anti-graft division, said Rosemarilou Gertes, administrative officer V at the NLRC, was charged with malversation of funds after the Commission on Audit discovered huge discrepancies in the deposit accounts she handled.

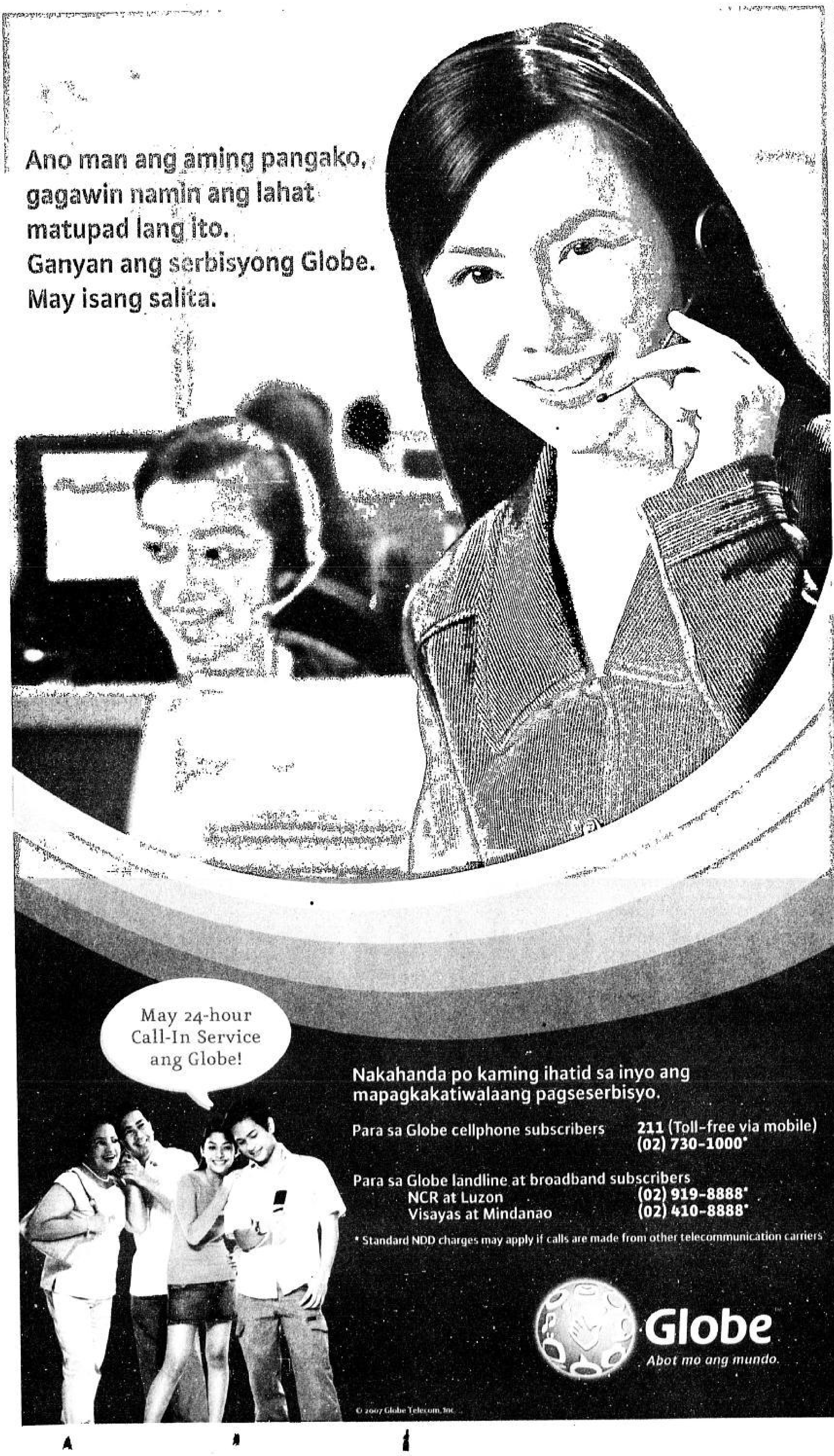
Among Gertes' official functions included receiving payments representing appeal, deposit, execution and certification fees, legal research and appeal bonds.

In July 2005, COA auditor Rosene Bukas examined Gertes' collections for the period of Dec. 21, 2001, to July 4, 2005, and found a cash shortage of P826.56.

A more extensive audit by COA for the period of Nov. 30, 2004, to Sept. 14, 2006, showed that some deposits Gertes had reported as supported by bank-validated deposit slips were not reflected in the bank statements and apparently were not deposited.

Total cash and check deposits not credited to the NLRC account, according to the COA findings, was over P11 million.

NLRC records showed that apart from the cash collections, at least seven checks payable to the commission were found not deposited to its account. *Tina G. Santos*



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JUST PURR-FECT

'Sharon,' 'Richard' pampered in ₱1.3-M kitty house

THE CATS are named after celebrities so don't be surprised to hear the four caretakers shouting out names like Gabby, Diether or Jericho.

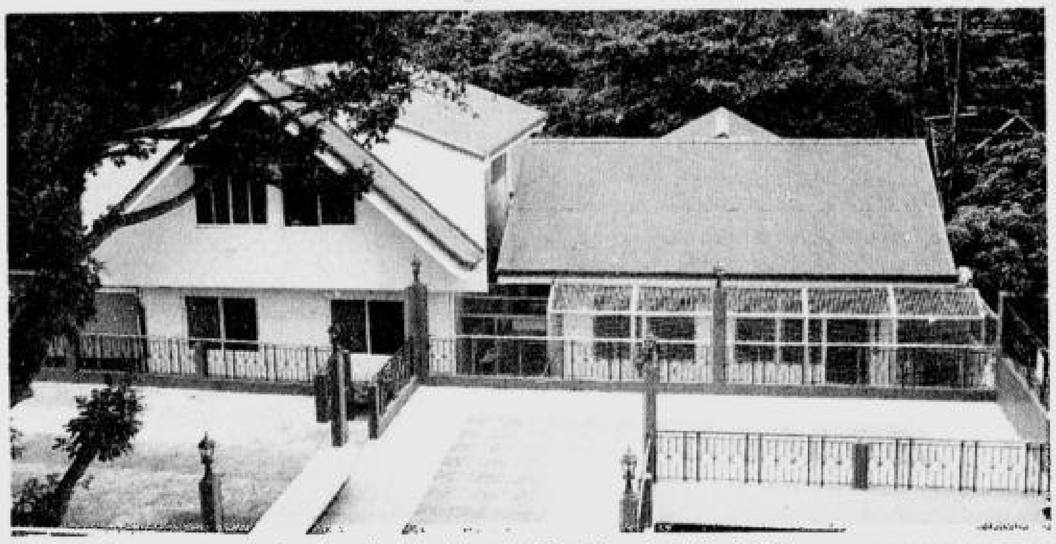
By Prosy B. Montesines
Contributor

"RUFFA" AND "PIOLO" ARE two of the 200 stray cats now enjoying tender loving care in a P1.3 million cattery that pet lover and businesswoman Baby Tabeta has built in a secluded area in Antipolo City. Another 200 cats are sheltered in her house in Pasig City.

Regarded by their benefactor as celebrities in their own right, the kitties are named Sharon, Gabby, Diether, Richard, Jericho, Toni, Sam and Angel.

Situated beside a new private resort called Guillean's Place which is also owned by Tabeta, the 400-sq m cat house was designed by architect Antonio Garcia following the owner's guidelines on the cage space requirement for each cat, health, hygiene, sanitation and maintenance.

The facility has four spacious cages with insulated roofing, tiled floors, metal screens, jalousie windows, a sun porch and areas for bathing, grooming and isolation. The design allows for sufficient air flow, lighting and ventilation, ample food storage, easy cleaning, efficient waste disposal, privacy and security.



SOME 200 stray cats and a few dogs live like kings in this cattery in Antipolo City. PHOTOS BY RUDY ESPERAS

Still to be installed are scratching poles, play pens and other activity tools to perk up the cats and keep them cheerful.

Veterinary clinic

Next in the works is a veterinary clinic with a doctor's office and an isolation room. The veterinarian will look only after the owner's pet cats and 13 dogs which live in the basement of the cattery.

Tabeta wanted to be a vet but ended up taking a course in nutrition. She is now a businesswoman and a pet lover on the side. For the past two decades, she has been rescuing cats and dogs from the streets as her way of inspiring respect for all living creatures and preventing cruelty to animals.

Her first pets were a pair of ailing cats that strayed into her backyard. She nursed them back to health and her experience spurred her to devote her time, energy and resources to the care of felines.

The cattery, however, is not an adoption home, Tabeta stressed. She does not accept cats offered to her for adoption and discourages people from dumping unwanted cats on her doorsteps. "I rescue stray animals myself. It's a strictly personal effort," she said.

Four caretakers look after the cats round-the-clock. They were hired on the basis of their interest and compassion for animals. They also underwent training, particularly on the proper way of administering medicines and vitamins to animals.

Quality diet

A nutrition and dietetics graduate, Tabeta understands feline nutrition and sets aside a weekly budget for a quality diet and feeding program that includes an ample supply of fresh and clean water. She devotes time to observing her pets' personality traits, eating habits, weight gain or loss and health status.

One important aspect of maintaining a cattery, according to her, is controlling the animals' capacity to reproduce.

A female cat (called a queen) normally gives birth to as many as four litters a year. A litter can have as many as eight kittens. To keep the population down, male cats are castrated while the females are spayed.

Apart from ensuring that the expenses for maintaining the cattery would not suddenly balloon, neutering also tames and improves a male cat's behavior. Studies also show that castrated toms tend to live longer than those that are not neutered. The

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In his 'garden,' flowers don't shrivel up or die

All they need is a dab of paint

By DJ Yap

TALES OF THE CITY

IN THE TWO YEARS THAT HE has engaged in the business of blooms, Ricky Mijares never once needed to place his flowers under the sun or to water them.

His roses, sunflowers and orchids are all made of aluminum cans and other recyclable materials, making his creations tougher and longer lasting than real flowers, but not less pleasing to the eye and earth-friendly, he said in an interview.

"I thought about the idea when I was strolling around the city about a year ago. I saw discarded soft drink cans and I wondered what use I could have for them," Mijares said.

"Then I started tinkering with the cans and realized I could cut them up easily into different shapes. That's when I thought of making them into flowers," he added.

The 45-year-old Mijares, who works as a copyboy for a major newspaper, began spending his nights at his workshop, where he fashioned cans and steel wire into blooms, brushing these later with car paint.

Before long, he was making the metallic flowers in batches of 100 nightly and selling them part-time in his warehouse for P100 to P200 apiece, depending on the size of the finished product.

He employed a handful of neighbors, including out-of-school youths, to increase production. He also began to diversify. "Apart from roses and orchids, I also made *sampaguita* and *gumamela* (hibiscus) versions," he said.

After an exhibition sponsored by the Filipino Inventors Society, Mijares' creations attracted the attention of foreigners, who placed several orders for the metallic flowers, he said.

"They particularly like the ones where I paint little butterflies on the petals," he said.

Business has been good, but it is still not enough for Mijares, a father of three, to give up his day job, he admitted.

RICKY Mijares and his forever fresh blooms.

RYAN LIM

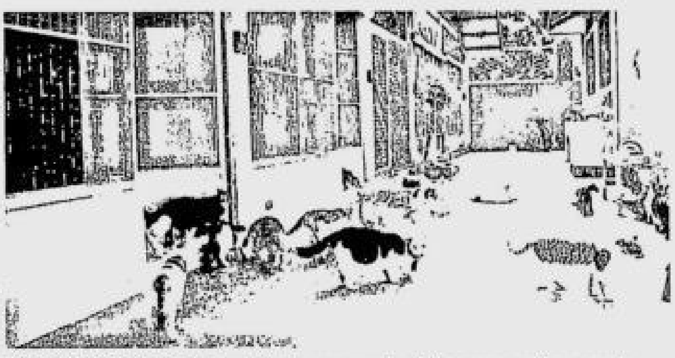
These days, he is following up a proposal to the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority for an ambitious project: To line the entire length of the Light Rail Transit Line 1 from Baclaran to Monumento with his creations.

"For the past several years, the MMDA has been trying to grow flowers there but they always die. Apparently, using real flowers has not been too much of a success because of the survival factor, so maybe they could use my products instead," he said.

"I want to make it to the Guinness Book of World Records for the longest line of flowers made of (aluminum) cans," he said, adding that the continuous garden of metal flowers could turn into a tourist attraction.

"The good thing also is my flowers can last a long time, maybe 10 years or more, unlike real flowers that die in a matter of days or weeks," he said.

Mijares said he has written a letter to MMDA officials about his proposal but he has not yet heard from them. "I hope they will share my vision for this project," he said.



THE "RESIDENTS" bask in the warmth of the sun on the porch.

'Sharon,' 'Richard' pampered . . .

From page A19

average life span of an indoor cat ranges from 14 to 20 years, equivalent to between the ages of 72 and 96 in human years, according to the website www.aboutkitten.com.

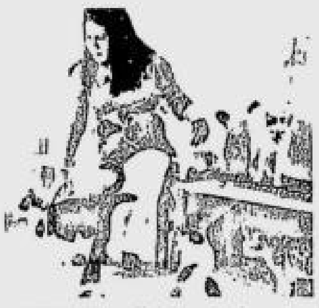
Caring for cats is very rewarding because of the affection they show toward their master, said Tabeta.

Whenever she enters a cage, a cluster of cats gathers around her, some of them rubbing their heads against her legs like children expressing their love toward their mother.

Why do people like Baby Tabeta make heavy emotional, physical and financial investments in the protection and care of felines?

"Cats are more loyal and grateful than a lot of people," she said.

Author Mark Twain also offered this answer once, probably in jest: "Of all God's creatures, there is only one that cannot be made the slave of the leash. That one is the cat. If man could be crossed with the cat, it would improve man, but it would deteriorate the cat."



CATS, according to pet lover Baby Tabeta, are loyal to their masters.

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"WE DEFINITELY prefer the market-driven deployment of Filipino nurses, instead of the quota (imposed by Jpepa). We are obliged to create job opportunities for our nurses."
LOREN LEGARDA, September 2007

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This section is dedicated to Filipinos overseas toiling on land and at sea, in factories, in construction sites and in the homes of the world, and wherever work can be contracted to secure a better life for their families. These are their stories.

Pinay elected president of US premier nurses group

By Cathy Babao Guballa
Contributor

ZENEI TRIUNFO-CORTEZ, A REGISTERED nurse, has just taken her place in history. Last Sept. 1, Zenei became the first Filipino president of California Nurses Association/National Nurses Organizing Committee, the premier organization of Filipino-American nurses in the United States.

Zenei is one of the four CNA presidents. The others are Americans.

"I am deeply touched by the honor bestowed upon me by my fellow nurses," Zenei tells the INQUIRER in an interview.

"To have come so far in my life and now to share the responsibility of advocating for patients and RNs alike is nothing that I could have imagined."

Zenei's election marks a watershed moment for nursing, which has increasingly become a global profession marked by steady migration from the Philippines, as well as for the larger Filipino-American people, now numbering more than two million, but is only beginning to acquire the social and political representation it deserves.

Founded in 1903, the California Nurses Association, and its national arm, the National Nurses Organizing Committee, is one of the nation's premier nurses' organizations and health care unions.

Big group

One of the fastest growing health care organizations in the US, the group at present has 75,000 members in 40 states, representing nurses at scores of hospitals, clinics and home health agencies.

Since 2000, over 19,000 RNs at 50 hospitals have elected to affiliate with CNA. It is the largest and fastest-growing organization of direct care registered nurses in the country dedicated to providing a voice for nurses and a vision for healthcare.

It's been a long and hard road for Zenei who migrated to the US in the early '70s. A brother who was with the US Navy sponsored all nine Triunfo siblings, Zenei among them, together with their parents, Aniano Villote Triunfo and Jovita Celi Triunfo.

Becoming a nurse was farthest from the young Zenei's mind. "I did not know that I would become a nurse," she says.

However, she has been in the company of Registered Nurses. Her dad's youngest sister Linda was part of the RN Exchange program in the '60s. And so was first cousin Annie. One of her sisters, Cindy and her sisters-in-law, are also nurses. She would later inspire her niece Melissa to also become an RN.

Zenei went to school in Chicago and began her career as a medical-surgical RN after her graduation in 1980. In 1982 she moved to California.

Getting started

In the next 27 years, her range of experience would include Oncology, Orthopedics, Telemetry and Critical Care. She is at present a Staff IV nurse in the Post Anesthesia Care Unit at a hospital in San Bruno.

Reflecting on her election, Zenei says she will never forget her earliest challenge as being only one of two Filipinos in her nursing school. "I had to work extra hard to prove that Filipinos could excel in their chosen careers," she says.

Zenei says that she has always believed in the power of the CNA especially when, in 1990, she was denied her current position. "CNA helped me through the grievance process and eventually I prevailed. From then on, I became a nurse representative to help fellow RNs resolve issues. I do not want them to go through what I went through," she says.

Having seen her struggle, her fellow RNs encouraged her to "officially" speak for them by running for office.

"I took on the challenge because I want RNs especially Filipino RNs to speak up for their rights, advocate for their patients and themselves," Zenei says.

She has been elected to the State Board of Directors for three terms (two years for each term) and then was elected vice president for two terms (also two years for each term). "Each time election comes around, I, together with other colleagues running for office, do launch a campaign. Since most of our constituents know us, they continue to support us," she says.

California
Nurses
Association

FACING UP TO SCHWARZENEGGER. Zenei Triunfo-Cortez, right, calls on California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger to institute health care reforms during a rally attended by nurses from all over the United States in California a few months ago.

The CNA has grown to a point where there is now a national arm—the National Nurses Organizing Committee (NNOC). Members are spread out all over the US.

Zenei explains that the scenario has prompted the organization to change the structure.

Health reforms

"Given the fact that we now have members from coast to coast, it will be too hectic for just one president to handle all the duties and responsibilities," she says.

"We are also bedside RNs who see to it that our patients get the quality care they deserve. Having a council of presidents allows us to remain at the bedside and lead the organization."

The council shares the job equally and it is a two-year term.

As one of the presidents, Zenei says that she will personally push for universal healthcare for all with a single standard of care and single payer. "I will also continue to pursue patient advocacy and advocacy for the nursing profession," she says.

The new CNA president remains a Pinoy at heart as she continues to speak Tagalog at home and subscribes to The Filipino Channel.

Close family ties

Like many other Filipino migrants, Zenei and her family live very close to one another. She still calls her older siblings *kuya* and *ate*.

"There is a lot of family support," she says.

"My mom who is 85 tends to cook a lot everyday, just in case us kids or grandkids will drop by to eat. My dad who is 89 spends a lot of time in his garden. He gives me healthy plants and I simply return it to him when it is dying."

Support became especially important when she battled cancer almost five years ago. The love and support of her husband Robert, who works for a major hotel chain, and her family helped her pull through one of the trying times of her life.

It also helps, she says, that she had excellent healthcare coverage.

"I did not have to worry about running out of insurance coverage. I was off for six months and again because of our contract language, I was able to save up all the sick time I earned through the 25 years of my employment," she says.

Like her parents and siblings, her husband never left her bedside, especially through two and a half months of daily radiation therapy.

"All the love and support and my strong faith in God helped me get well," she says.

"Being a patient allowed me to see first hand the incredible work RNs do everyday. I received good care. It was not difficult for me to navigate the healthcare system because I know the system. It will perhaps be different for those who do not know. But again as RNs, we are there for them."

Advice to young nurses

Earlier this year, Zenei was home and spoke before a local nursing college. She was in Manila in January when she was invited to speak to the graduating nursing class of Lyceum in Batangas and its sister campus.

"I was glad to meet enthusiastic students and instructors. They're a very nice and hospitable people. I had the opportunity to tour their classrooms and clinical labs all of which are very modern."

To young nurses desiring a better life overseas, she gives these pointers: For those RNs who want to go abroad, please read the fine prints of your contract; Ask questions, get the answers in writing. Exploitation is on the rise.

A very important question to ask is, "Just in case you do not pass the state boards, what will happen to your status?"

She says one's future employer needs to provide orientation and training, especially with the new technology.

Love your career

"Look for a mentor who can assist you in your new work place. There is usually a mother figure willing to take on that role. Do not be afraid to ask questions when you are unclear on things," she says.

"Above all, do not just go into nursing because it pays well abroad. You need to have the passion for the profession and the patience to face different challenges everyday. You need to be aware of the diverse cultural backgrounds your patients will have. Learn to be assertive. Work on your communication skills. Love your career."

When to get a U visa

IMFO
Lourdes Santos Tancinco

VICTIMS OF CRIMES SEEKING protection to allow them to cooperate with law enforcement are afforded legal status in the US. This is possible if the criminal activity violates the laws of the United States or occurs in the US or its territories or possessions.

More than six years ago, US Congress enacted the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000 ("Violence Protection Act") allowing non-US citizens, who become victims of specific crimes to apply for U visas with the US Citizenship and Immigration Service (USCIS).

On Sept. 5, the USCIS finally came out with its interim final regulations to implement this law. How does this new regulation affect applicants who are victims of crimes in the US? What happens if the victim is now in the Philippines and had left the US after the crime was perpetrated on him/her? Will family members of the victims be able to obtain the U visa as well?

The U non-immigrant visa category is for non-US citizens who have suffered substantial physical or mental abuse as a result of certain crimes including domestic violence, sexual exploitation, peonage, and involuntary servitude. The purpose of the law is to strengthen the ability of law enforcement agencies to investigate and prosecute these crimes, while offering protection to the victims of the offense. The law is also intended particularly at combating crimes of which women and children are frequently victims.

Eligibility for U visas

To receive a U visa the following eligibility requirements have to be satisfied:

First, the applicant or the non-immigrant must show that she or he has suffered "substantial physical or mental abuse" as a result of being the victim of one or more of the following crimes or any similar activity in violation of federal, state, or local criminal law: rape, torture, trafficking, incest, domestic violence, sexual assault, abusive sexual contact, prostitution, sexual exploitation; female genital mutilation; holding hostage; peonage; involuntary servitude; slave trading; kidnapping; abduction; unlawful criminal felonious assault; witness tampering; obstruction of justice; perjury, or attempt, conspiracy, or solicitation to commit any of these crimes.

Second, the applicant has information concerning the specified criminal activity.

Third, the applicant has been helpful, is being helpful, or is likely to be helpful to law enforcement officials in investigating the specified criminal activity and that the specified crime violated US laws or occurred in the United States or its possessions (including Native American lands and military bases).

Fourth, the petition must include a certification from a federal, state, or local law enforcement official, prosecutor, judge, or other authority stating that the applicant "has been helpful, is being helpful, or is likely to be helpful" in the investigation or prosecution of the crime of which the applicant has been a victim. This certification may also be provided by an immigration agency official whose ability to provide such certification is not limited to information concerning immigration violations.

From its enactment in the year 2000, no applicant has ever been issued a U visa. There were more 7,000 non-US citizens who have applied for interim relief as victims of crimes, and, approximately 5,800 non-US citizens have been approved. With the enactment of the implementing rules, there are now specific guidelines that applicant victims may follow to obtain their U visas allowing them to later on apply for their green cards.

Alien victims of crime must file a petition for U Non-immigrant Status (Form I-918). The form requests information regarding the petitioner's eligibility for such status, as well as admissibility to the United States. The USCIS has designated its Vermont Service Center as the centralized location to receive all U Non-immigrant petitions. Such centralization will allow USCIS officials to develop expertise in handling U non-immigrant petitions.

There are possible victims of crime who may now be residing outside of the United States who may still qualify for the U visa. The USCIS has determined that the statutory framework for U non-immigrant status permits victims of qualifying criminal activity to apply for such status whether they are currently inside or outside the US.

Even individuals who are victims of criminal activity outside of the United States can receive U status if the criminal activity violates the laws of the United States and a US law enforcement agency is willing to investigate and/or prosecute the crime.

Victims' family

Those who are in the Philippines and are family members of the U visa holder may also obtain U visas as derivative beneficiaries. The principal petitioner (victim) must petition on behalf of qualifying family members.

If the principal petitioner is less than 21 years of age, qualifying family members include the principal's spouse, children, unmarried siblings under 18, and parents. If the principal is 21 or older, qualifying members only include the spouse and children of the Principal victim.

In order for a family member to obtain U non-immigrant status, they must (1) be a qualifying family member (as described above), and (2) must be admissible to the US.

The purpose of the U visa is to strengthen law enforcement's ability to detect, investigate and prosecute violent crimes while protecting the victims of these crimes. How many of these victims will gather enough courage to face their perpetrators depend on the merits of each particular case. If the case of the applicant is not strong, there is a possibility of deportation should the U visa be denied. Those who are applying must ensure that they have proper documentation to support their alleged crime and not just apply to obtain the visa.

(IMFO stands for Immigration Information. A lawyer, Tancinco may be reached at law@tancinco.com or at (02)887-7177)

O.J. named suspect in armed robbery

SIMPSON in Feb. 9, 2001 photo AFP

LAS VEGAS—O.J. SIMPSON says he went into a casino hotel room only to retrieve memorabilia that he felt was stolen from him. But police are investigating it as an armed robbery and named the fallen football star as a suspect in yet another surprising chapter to his legal saga.

In an interview with The Associated Press on Friday, Simpson insisted there were no guns involved and that he went to the room at the Palace Station casino Thursday night only to get stolen mementos that included his Hall of Fame certificate and a picture of the running back with former FBI director J. Edgar Hoover.

"It's stolen stuff that's mine. Nobody was roughed up," Simpson said.

The ex-NFL football star and actor has been a tabloid staple since his ex-wife, Nicole Brown Simpson, and her friend Ron Goldman were killed in 1994. Simpson was acquitted of murder charges, but a jury later held him liable for the killings in a wrongful death lawsuit. Simpson has had to auction off his sports collectibles to pay some of the $33.5 million judgment awarded in the civil trial.

Las Vegas Metro Police Capt. James Dillon said the confrontation was reported as an armed robbery involving guns. But he said no weapons had been recovered and stressed that the investigation was in its "infancy."

Simpson was questioned by police immediately after the incident Thursday night. Dillon said Simpson would not agree to a formal, recorded interview until his lawyer arrived, but did offer some statements about the incident. No charges had been filed and no one was in custody.

Simpson said auction house owner Tom Riccio called him several weeks ago to say some collectors "have a lot of your stuff and they don't want anyone to know they are selling it."

Simpson, who lives near Miami but was in Las Vegas for a friend's wedding, said he arranged to meet Riccio at the hotel. Riccio had set up a meeting with collectors under the guise that he had a private collector interested in buying Simpson's items.

"We walked into the room," Simpson said in the telephone interview. "I'm the last one to go in and when they see me, it's all 'Oh God.'"

He said he was accompanied by several men he met at a wedding cocktail party, and they took the collectibles.

Simpson said he was not sure where the items were taken.

A message left for Riccio was not immediately returned.

Riccio told the Los Angeles Times he arranged the meeting after receiving a phone call about a month ago from a person who claimed to have personal items—including footballs, awards and photos—that had belonged to Simpson and wanted to sell them.

"Simpson was supposed to show up, identify the items and tell the men to either give the stuff back or he would call the police," Riccio told the newspaper. *AP*

UN: Islamaphobia on rise

Envoy says European parties exploiting racism

GENEVA—THE UNITED NATIONS investigator on racism on Friday condemned a rising trend of Islamaphobia, especially in Europe, where he said it was being exploited by some right-wing political parties.

Doudou Diene, UN special rapporteur on racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related forms of intolerance, also accused Switzerland's most popular party, the right-wing Swiss People's Party (SVP/UDC), of inciting hatred.

He urged the withdrawal of the party's controversial campaign poster calling for expulsion of foreigners who commit serous crimes, depicting three white sheep booting out a black sheep under the headline "For the Security of All."

"In the current context, Islamaphobia constitutes the most serious form of religious defamation," Diene said in a speech and report to the UN Human Rights Council, whose 47 member states were holding a debate on religious defamation.

More and more political leaders and influential media and intellectuals were "equating Islam with violence and terrorism," and some were seeking to "silence religious practices by banning the construction of mosques," Diene said.

Pakistan, speaking for the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC), called the rise of Islamaphobia "alarming."

"Recent acts of defamation in the shape of blasphemous sketches in Sweden and posters in Switzerland reinforce this conclusion. Such blasphemy should not be encouraged in the name of freedom of expression," Pakistan's envoy Masood Khan said.

He said the 57-nation OIC, which represents 1.3 billion Muslims, condemned terrorism in all its forms.

"The international media continues to use the misguided actions of a small extremist minority as an excuse to malign the entire Muslim world, as well as the religion of Islam," he said.

Diene, a Senegalese lawyer, said in his 21-page report to the Council that Islamaphobia had grown since the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on the United States.

Worldwide, an increasing number of traditional democratic parties were "resorting to the language of fear and exclusion, scapegoating and targeting ethnic or religious minorities in general, and immigrants and refugees in particular," he said.

In Europe, Muslims faced growing difficulties to establish places of worship and carry out their religious practices such as dietary regimens and burials, according to the UN envoy.

"Political parties with open anti-Islamic platforms have joined governmental coalitions in several countries and started to put in place their political agendas. In sum, Islamophobia is in the process of permeating all facets of social life." *Reuters*

Bhutto to return to Pakistan on Oct. 18

ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN—FORMER PRIME Minister Benazir Bhutto announced on Friday that she would return from self-imposed exile on Oct. 18 to run in parliamentary elections that could make her prime minister for a third time by the year's end.

The decision to return appears to have been made without her reaching a formal power-sharing agreement with Pakistan's president, Gen. Pervez Musharraf, party officials said. But in an indication that there was some understanding between her and the government, a presidential spokesperson said there were no restrictions on her returning, implying that it was not likely that she would be threatened with arrest upon her return.

Bhutto faces a number of court cases for corruption and money laundering, and she has demanded in negotiations with Musharraf that the cases be withdrawn if she is to support his rule.

But after party officials announced the date of her return, Bhutto told Pakistan TV, "Our talks with General Musharraf are going nowhere, so we have decided to go ahead with our own plans."

ACTIVISTS of The Pakistan People's Party (PPP) eat sweets to celebrate after the announcement of the date of return to Pakistan of PPP chairp and former Pakistani premier Benazir Bhutto in Lahore on Sept. 14. AFP

Musharraf seems prepared to go ahead with his own plans as well. He is expected to announce the schedule for his own reelection in the next few days. If he decides to run for another five-year term as president, he needs to file papers and be voted in by an electoral college of the national and provincial assemblies between Sept. 15 and Oct. 15. It appears that Bhutto, 54, will return just after the presidential vote as parliament is dissolved in preparation for general elections.

Officials of Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party made the announcement of her return at their party headquarters in Islamabad, which was decorated with banners and a vast poster of their leader, who, at 35, became the first female prime minister of a Muslim country.

Talks over a power-sharing deal between Bhutto and Musharraf have gone on for months, nudged by the United States and European countries, in hopes of finding a way for moderate elements in Pakistan to join forces, for Musharraf to stay in power and for Bhutto to return and serve as prime minister. But the talks stalled 11 days ago.

Bhutto has said that she opposes Musharraf's reelection in uniform, but that delaying her return until the general has pushed his election through a compliant parliament will help him. After that, she will take the gloves off, one of her supporters said. *NYT*

ANNOUNCEMENT

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Manila City, 16 September 2007.
By: JUANITA CHOA TO and SANTOS LAO

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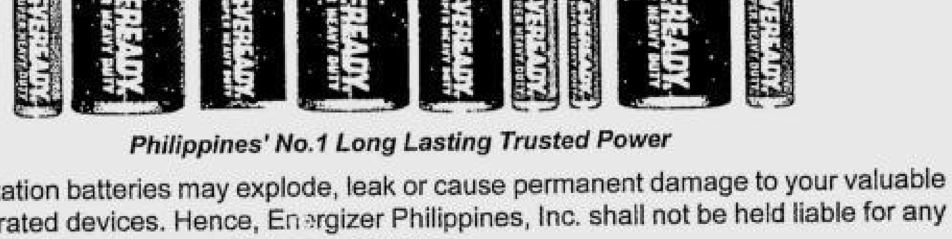

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WORLDBRIEFS

Arctic sea route opens fully as ice melts, says space agency

LONDON—The Arctic's Northwest Passage has opened up fully because of melting sea ice, clearing a long-sought but historically impassable route between Europe and Asia, the European Space Agency said. Sea ice has shrunk in the Arctic to its lowest level since satellite measurements began 30 years ago, ESA said, showing images of the now "fully navigable" route between the Atlantic and the Pacific. A shipping route through the Northwest Passage in the Canadian Arctic has been touted as a possible cheaper option to the Panama Canal for many shippers. "We have seen the ice-covered area drop to just around 3 million square km," said Leif Toudal Pedersen of the Danish National Space Centre, describing the drop in the Arctic sea ice as "extreme." The figure was about 1 million sq km less than previous lows in 2005 and 2006, Pedersen added. ***Reuters***

A new prime minister, and more intrigue, in Russia

MOSCOW—Russia's parliament confirmed Viktor A. Zubkov as prime minister on Friday, cementing the instant rise to Kremlin stature of a quiet confidant of President Vladimir V. Putin even as Putin added fresh uncertainty to the question of who might succeed him. Speaking at an annual meeting of visiting Russia experts, Putin said there were now at least five viable presidential candidates for the election next spring. Three are known: Zubkov and two first deputy prime ministers—Sergei B. Ivanov and Dmitri A. Medvedev. Putin declined to share the other two names. "Currently, a minimum of five people can be named who stand a real chance of running for president and getting elected," Putin said. "There is a real choice." The surprise ascension of Zubkov, who previously led a small federal agency that investigates financial crimes, had already raised questions about the field. Putin's hint of two more candidates appeared to confuse the succession question further, leaving Kremlin watchers speculating anew about his plans. ***NYT***

Number of centenarians in Japan hits record high

TOKYO—The number of Japanese aged 100 or older will reach a record of more than 32,000 by next month, according to a government survey, the latest sign that Japan is aging quicker than any other country. One in five Japanese are now aged 65 or older and by midcentury that figure will nearly double, while the population is expected to drop by 30 percent to 90 million. Japan's women, who have topped the world's longevity ranking for 22 years, now account for 86 percent of the country's centenarians at 27,682, according to the recent government survey. Japanese girls born last year can expect to live to an average age of 85.8. Their male compatriots have a life expectancy of 79, second to Icelandic man at 79.4 years. ***Reuters***

Burma cuts phone service to activists, journalists

BANGKOK— Burma's military government has cut off the mobile phones of prominent prodemocracy supporters and of some journalists representing foreign media, including two from Agence France-Presse. The management of AFP has requested that the authorities in Burma (also known as Myanmar) restore mobile phone service to its reporters so that they can carry out their work. Burma's military government issued a strong statement last Sunday, warning that it would take "effective action" against prodemocracy supporters who have staged a rare series of antijunta protests beginning on Aug. 19. The small but persistent protests were sparked by a massive rise in fuel prices and have drawn in Buddhist monks in towns around the country. ***AFP***

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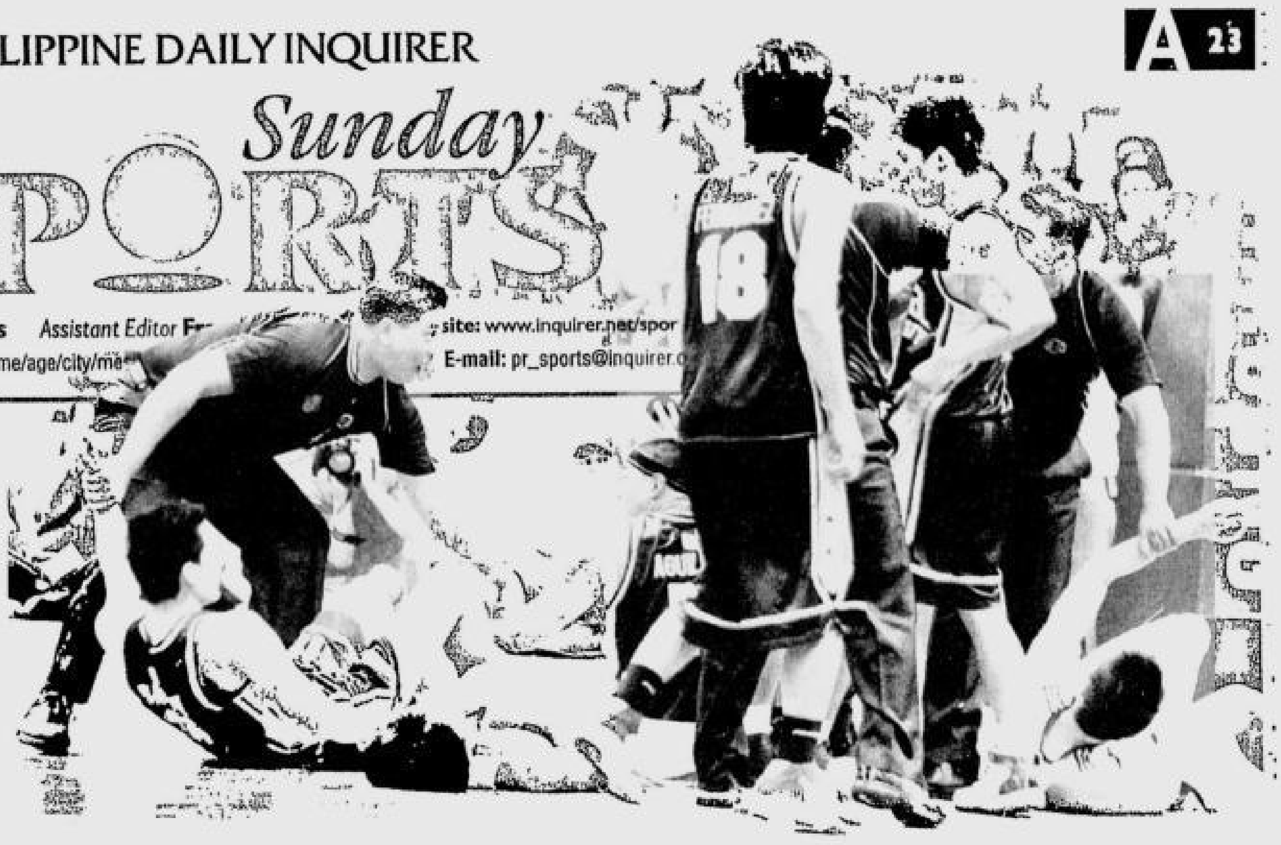

A PACK of Bulldogs and a flock of Eagles underscore the intensity of yesterday's game in this loose ball scramble. ROGER MARGALLO

NU seals 3rd La Salle, Ateneo war

Activity Today (*Araneta Coliseum*)
3 p.m.—Cheering Competition
Game Tomorrow (*Araneta Coliseum*)
3 p.m.—Santo Tomas vs. Far Eastern

By Musong R. Castillo

WHAT A TIME FOR NATIONAL TO FLASH its potential and for the Ateneo Blue Eagles to play below theirs.

The Bulldogs supplied a shocker on the last day of the UAAP basketball eliminations by grounding the Eagles in overtime, 96-88, to set the stage for another Ateneo-La Salle duel for the No. 2 slot.

Out of the Final Four hunt as early as last week, the Bulldogs dug deep in the third quarter and then hung tough the rest of the way to deal the Eagles a setback they did not expect at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium.

Starting point guard Jonathan Jahnke scored nine straight points to break the 71-71 tie at the end of regulation play and take the fight out of the Eagles, who dropped into a tie at 9-5 with the Archers.

The Bulldogs ended their campaign with a 6-8 record and could have lost the game easily and find no one to blame them.

Ateneo-La Salle III is set Thursday at the Cuneta Astrodome in Pasay, with the winner earning a twice-to-beat edge in the semifinals.

The battle for the No. 4 spot between defending champion Santo Tomas and Far Eastern is set tomorrow at the Araneta Coliseum.

The winner tomorrow will advance to face the loser of the Thursday game in a KO match for the right to face the Thursday winner in the semifinals.

The Ateneo-La Salle winner would need to win just once in the semis to advance opposite University of the East in the best-of-three title series.

"We just wanted to get back at them," National coach Manny Dandan, whose wards lost in the first round, 65-66, to the Eagles, said. Bulldog Edwin Asoro hit a short stab with 21.1 seconds to go in regulation for the 71-71 tie.

The scores:

First Game

ADAMSON 93—Cabahug 25, Canuday 15, Colina 12, Hugnatan 11, Alvarez 9, Canada 6, Gonzalgo 4, Gorospe 3, Lozada 2, Aguilo 2, Yambot 2, Santos 2, Olalia 0, Dela Paz 0, Margallo 0.

UP 75—Gamboa 15, De Asis 14, Sison 11, Co 11, Serios 8, Rivera 7, Reyes 5, Marfori 2, Epres 2, Lopez 0, Dela Victoria 0.

Quarters: 34-26, 53-29, 70-50, 93-75

Second Game

NU 96—Fernandez 24, Asoro 16, Jahnke 15, Salvado 12, Malagueno 10, Aguilar 7, Baloran 4, Dela Cruz 4, Luy 2, Lingao Lingao 2, Ponferrada 0, Garcia 0.

ATENEO 88—Arao 22, Reyes 16, Salamat 14, Monfort 14, Tiu 9, Baclao 7, Nkemakolam 2, Escueta 2, Laterre 2, Long 0, Al-Hussaini 0.

Quarters: 14-19, 22-31, 49-43, 71-71, 96-88

Batawang an easy target

By Recah Trinidad

LOS ANGELES—A THUNDERCLAP LEFT TO the head, which sent his bigger Russian sparmate tottering, yesterday showed that Bert Batawang has a great shot at the IBF light flyweight crown of Mexican Ulises Solis, but the Cebuano also exposed serious flaws, mainly in defense, during a furious sparring here.

There was no doubting Batawang's ferocity and power as he tore at bantamweight Andrei Kutsin who, despite outweighing him by at least eight pounds, had to claw, gasp for air and clinch after absorbing heavy body bombardment.

The problem was that, although he had supposedly stopped loading up his punches, Batawang kept leaving his head uncovered while pulling back his arms to complete a hard shot.

There was also a serious lack of continuity and Batawang, caught against the ropes, stalled, failed to cut and counter, and was left an open target in the closing seconds of rounds three and four.

"Basta isabit natin ang korona (We're out to nail the crown)," an incensed Batawang blurted absently after his mouthpiece was disengaged at the end of the six-round drill.

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Ipakita ang orihinal na ticket sa pag claim ng prize. 18 years old pataas lang ang pwedeng sumali
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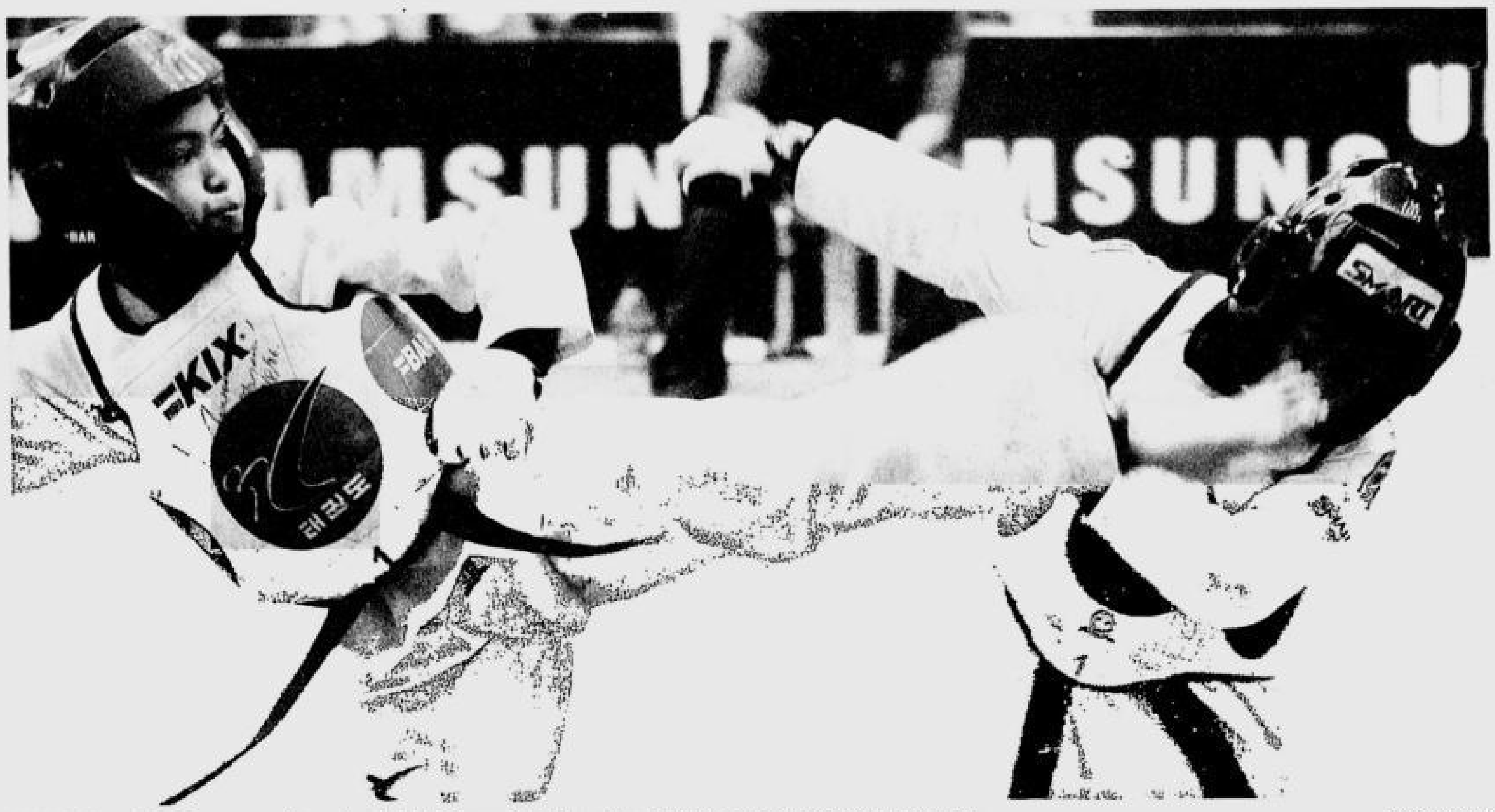


JAYMAR Locsin (left) scores a point against Erick Enriquez in the boys 11 to 12 division yesterday. Enriquez won. 3-1. ROMY HOMILLADA

Allas, Talavera gain finals

By Romina Austria

TOP SEEDS JHOMEL ALLAS OF S&A Workshop and Regie Carl John Talavera of Ilocos led yesterday's march to the finals of the junior participants of the 2007 Samsung Best of the Best National Taekwondo Championships at the Glorietta Activity Center in Makati City.

Sidney Crispino of San Sebastian College, meanwhile, made the finweight finals when he upset junior national team member Dan Jodzon Pacuan, 2-0.

Wendell Dacanay of Bataan will meet sixth seed Crispino in the championship after downing City of Malolos' Aaron Luke Abiera, 5-1.

Allas nipped John Necho Tidoy of Kagayan TKD, 4-3, to advance to the bantam finals against 10th seed Devi John Singson of Region 1, a 3-1 winner over Brave Hearts' Rolf Gagujas.

Talavera had to undergo a sudden death after a 2-2 count to oust UE's Anthony John Samia. He vies for the middleweight gold against Meycauayan's Paul Nikko Dizon, who won by default over Cavite's Anthony Javaluyas.

In the flyweight division, second seed Leonardo Avenido of EJAL will tackle Ronnel Yadao of UFC in the championship. Avenido trounced Jamez Ruiz Luzuriaga of De la Salle Zobel in the semis, 3-1, while Yadao beat St. Francis of Assisi College's Kevin Nico Jao, 5-1.

The featherweight finals will pit Elijah Marcelino of FEU against Belarmino Ulidan of Central Gym.

Marcelino survived Reed Alanes of San Sebastian, 6-5, and Ulidan edged Aron Dacasin of Brave Hearts, 3-2.

No. 4 lighweight seed Jay Angelo To Ong is also in the finals with a tough sudden death win over Niou Baluyot of back-to-back NCAA champion Letran.

Ong, who ended the regulation period tied with Baluyot at 5-5, will take on Brave Hearts' Ron Alfred Miko David, who disposed of Meynard Marticio of the NTU Tigers, 5-2.

An all-Nueva Ecija finals almost ensued in the welterweight division after seed Paul Romero blasted Central Gym's Clyde Dexter Lozano, 7-0, but teammate Kevin Ray Abesamis lost to Reymart Bartolome of Rizal High School, 0-2.

In the girls division, UFC's Patricia Sembrano and MTM's Mary Ann Espina will dispute the gold in the finweight class; Rowema Irish Apuilan and Aleksa Alferez clash for the bantam gold while Jyra Lizardo and Leiah Nuquid duel for the gold in the flyweight division.

SBP interested in Serbian coach

IN HUDDLE

Beth Celis

THE 59-YEAR OLD SERBIAN COACH GAVE it to Patrick Gregorio straight: "If you want to get back on the Asian basketball map, you have to have at least one 7-foot player in the team."

And since he is aware that we don't grow basketball players that tall in the Philippines, Vlade Djurovic said we will need to naturalize, the way we did 20 years ago in the case of Jeff Moore, Dennis Still and Chip Engelland, none of whom even came close to 7 feet.

With the trio, we won the Fiba-Asia Men's championship, then known as the Asian Basketball Conference, and the 1986 Jones Cup.

***

"Vlade said the most important positions in a basketball team are those of center and point guard. He said we have many good point guards but no good center. Compared to the other Asians, he rated the Filipino basketball player as "good", but not excellent, not even very good," said the BAP-SBP project director, who has been tasked by chair Manny V. Pangilinan to study and evaluate European basketball philosophy which has proven so effective in recent years.

"We've tried the American and Asian philosophies, but these didn't work for us. Maybe the European philosophy will."

Just exactly what is the European philosophy? I asked Pato.

***

"It's continuous passing. Pass. Pass. Pass. You don't allow the ball to stay in your hands longer than a few seconds. You should see his drills. A cager must be able to manage four balls at one time,"

Pato said 80 participants from the PBA, the PBL and the collegiate leagues from all over the Philippines attended the two-day clinic conducted by Djurovic at the Fort in Taguig.

"To my recollection, it was the first time we had a basketball clinic conducted by a European. He had many ideas which were new to us."

Yes, the SBP is considering hiring Djurovic long term, to teach basketball on the grassroots level and even perhaps to coach the national team.

Gregorio said that Djurovic, for his part, felt it would be a great honor if he succeeds in helping the Philippines find itself back in the world basketball map.

"He said he's getting old and that might be a legacy he can leave to both Serbia and the Philippines. Do you know that he didn't charge us a single centavo for his clinic? He even paid for his own air fare."

***

I forgot to ask if basketball and boxing scholar Teddy Reynoso was a University of the East alumnus. He must be.

After the UE-DLSU game last Thursday, I got this text message from Teddy: " UE won this game, sweeping both rounds of the UAAP. Don't you think the Warriors should be automatically declared champion? What's the incentive for a sweep anyway? An automatic finals slot where they could lose everything they worked so hard for if they get beaten twice by the opponent. That's crazy if you ask me!"

More than a decade ago, that's exactly the way it was done. UST was the last team to be automatically declared champion after sweeping the first and second round of the UAAP back in 1993.

That feat was not duplicated until this season.

Belasco, Welcoat come to terms

By Musong R. Castillo

IT SEEMS THAT ALL'S WELL that ends well with Nic Belasco and Welcoat.

Belasco is now set to ink a two-year deal with the Dragons just two days after Welcoat had threatened to trade the former Alaska mainstay due to costly perks the 6-foot-7 forward had asked to go with a maximum contract.

"There's nothing fantastic anymore," Raymund Yu, co-team owner of the Dragons, told the Inquirer over the phone yesterday. "We expect him (Nic) to sign within the next couple of days when he arrives from the (United) States."

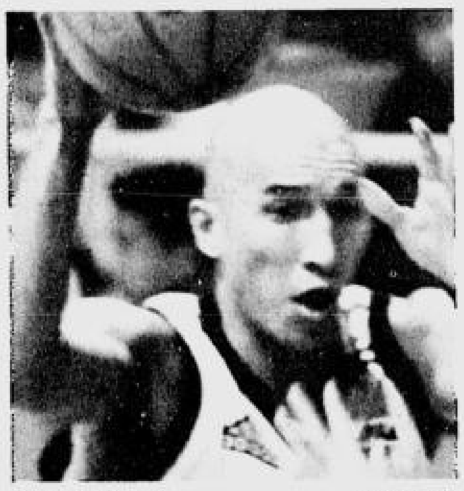
The team had thought of trading Belasco after he had asked for the inclusion of some perks in the offer, which would amount to at least P8.4 million in base pay.

"When he returned (his counter offer), we found the things that he was asking for acceptable," Yu said. "Now, we can complete the frontline that we want and hopefully be competitive in the coming season."

The Dragons, who won but seven games in their first two tournaments last year, tapped Joe Devance as first overall in the Draft before snagging Belasco in a trade with Alaska.

Welcoat gave up Jun Jun Cabatu to gain signing rights on Belasco, a tested winner with San Miguel and Alaska who debuted with defunct Pop Cola. Cabatu was inked to a one-year contract by the Aces for P2 million.

Yu added that after Belasco signs, they will try to hook up a guard through a trade in order to complete their roster.



NIC BELASCO RUDY ESPERAS

Rodriguez, Carcel win

CEBUANO ACES PACO RODRIGUEZ AND TONY Carcel repulsed their visiting Manila rivals to rule their respective classes recently in the sixth leg of the 2007 Shell Helix Karting Super Series at the Kart Zone in Mabolo, Cebu City. The 14-year-old Rodriquez, the reigning Junior Karter of the Year, turned back Ken Monzones and Jess Garcia for the ROK Seniors title. Carcel, on the other hand, stunned top favoriets Joey Orduna of Tuason Racing-R2R and third placer Franco Reyes of Jet Racing for the Mini-ROK crown.

PCFBL joins Asean meet

FORMER CRISPA STARS FREDDIE Hubalde and Bong dela Cruz will lead a 30-man delegation from the Philippine Chinese Friendship Basketball League that will see action in the 16th Asean Veterans Basketball Championship in Genting Island, Malaysia, on Sept. 18-23.

The delegation, headed by Welcoat co-team owner Terry Que and Ironcon Builders big boss Jimmy Lim, will leave today with the 50-years-old and above team going for a fourth straight championship.

Aside from Que, Lim, Hubalde and Dela Cruz, other team members are Noli Banate, Andrew Ongteco, William Lao, Alberto Lee, Daniel Ong, Macario Co, Rolly Chiang and Alfonso Kaw.

Que and Lim will act as team managers of the group with Eladio Yu as assistant.

Comprising the 60-years-old team are Macario Chua, Tomas Ong, Victor Chua, Chua Huay Suan, Manuel Sy, Manuel Ang, Tomas Ngo, Paquito Ngo, Eddie Uy and Jerry Ong. Alfono Kaw is the designated manager wih Jasper Ang as assistant manager.

I laughed, I cried, Kobe became part of me

By Percy D. Della

COMMENTARY

SACRAMENTO—LESS THAN TWO WEEKS ago, Manila went gaga over Kobe Bryant.

The city limped along with a double whammy of bad basketball news—the San Miguel-Philippine team's demise in the Fiba Asia tournament and the crisis of morality in the PBA leadership.

And then came Kobe.

To paraphrase the late Selma Desmond on the old NBC TV show "Night Court," every basketball fan in town seemed to have sighed:

"I laughed. I cried. He (Kobe) became part of me."

Kobe first hit town as an emerging cage star nine years or so ago. He returned a megastar—a veteran who knows something about entering a basketball stage.

It's all about the build-up.

Not that he needs a media drum roll in a basketball bastion like our fair city.

But who else would Nike pick to tout a $150 pair of shoes to more fortunate Filipinos and their affluent Asian neighbors than the superstar with the moves, coquettish as needed.

The delayed face time with reporters (leave 'em hanging, they'll wait), the scripted interaction with young basketball players are meant to pique interest for expensive sneakers—by a player who has already proven his aptitude using the media, from television to the Internet.

The guy can pretty much control his own message when he so desires, and when no probing salvos are fired at him.

The barnstorming tour of a region that would show up to thrill not to grill the megastar is Kobe's momentary Camelot. It is an extension of his dream Las Vegas performance with Team USA that snagged a slot in the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

Because when he decides to show up with the Los Angeles Lakers this fall, he will belong in owner Jerry Buss' doghouse.

Or worst in the city pound.

Bryant tore up his relationship with teammates and LA land a few months back by demanding a trade and crying over a lack of support to win a title. Because of his rebellious ways, he is said to be a feared presence in the Lakers' locker room.

There is even talk swirling around LA's media that Bryant, if he plays for the Lakers this season, would be traded afterward rather than be allowed to opt out of his contract next season.

Thus, beneath the mask of cordiality you saw in a Makati hotel ballroom last week is a storm brewing in Kobe's mind.

And remember Bryant's comment about surrounding himself with the whole Team USA, (granting he was billionaire Bill Gates) and owned the Lakers?

It was a subtle dig at his present employers and teammates that escaped scrutiny from the assembled hordes.

"I laughed. I cried. He (Kobe) became part of me."

***

A boxing resurgence continues in Sacramento following the successful World Cup tournament between the Philippines and Mexico last month.

There is talk that promoter Don King is bringing a WBC light heavyweight title fight to Arco Arena in late September.

Although contract details are still being worked out, the fight will reportedly pit Chad Dawson (24-0, 16 knockouts) in a second defense of his title against Adrian Diaconu (24-0, 15 KOs). Diaconu is a Romanian living in Canada.

The RP-Mexico World Cup that featured two world bouts, was the last title card at Arco. The Golden Boy Promotions card on Aug. 11 drew an announced paid crowd of 4,469—a success by Northern California standards.

Among the sport's luminaries at the World Cup was world flyweight king Nonito Donaire Jr.

Donaire in his barong was a dignified presence both as an ABS-CBN TV analyst and an interpreter for Pinoy fighters at Oscar de la Hoya's post-game interview. Nonito obviously is not cut from the same cloth as the newscaster with a pompous presence that night. More on the amiable Filipino Flash next time.

NCA Stag Circuit leg up Sept. 18

THE NCA HOLDS THE SECOND leg of its Stag Circuit derby on Sept. 18 at the Pasay City Cockpit with Manny Pacquiao, Eric Dela Rosa, Mario Villamor and Rey Briones as hosts.

This derby is slated to be one of the biggest and much-awaited events in the NCA calendar this year, with the who's who in Philippine cockfighting pitting their aces.

The NCA Derby is acknowledged as the Olympics of cockfighting, with international cockers Joe Wolcott and Roy Ogol stating that it is the toughest derby in the world.

SPORTSWATCH

Roligon 4-stag derby set Oct. 4

A SPECIAL 4-STAG DERBY, EXPECTED TO DRAW NO LESS THAN 50 ENtries, unwraps at Roligon Mega Cockpit on Oct. 4. The event offers a guaranteed prize of P500,000 for an entry fee of P8,800, said host Rolly Ligon. Stags banded by different breeders organizations will be accepted. Last Monday, the entries of Dante (William Go), Ninja (Junior Lagunday) and Joram (Jed Ramos) topped the Stag Festival 5-stag derby with five wins each,

Lagba starts stag circuit Tuesday

THE LAGUNA GAMEFOWL BREEDERS ASSOCIATION, COMPOSED OF more than 150 roosters-raisers, will kick off its 2007 stag derby series with a 5-stag tilt on Tuesday at the Araneta Coliseum. All birds banded by NFGB and UGBA-member groups will be recognized in the Thunderbird Power Feeds-backed event. For details, call 9112928 or 9113101 local 8352 and 8357.

RACING TIPS

BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Tri)—He's The Man/Indelible Ink (5), Arithmetic (3), Santo Sanbto (2)

Race 2—(Ord/Tri)—Pristine Water (3), Premiere Act (2), Western Dancer (5), Play It Again (1)

Race 3—Anonymous (3), Love Story (2), Granil (6), Starlight Express (1)

Race 4—(Penta/Ord/Tri)—Sutter's Royal (3), Golden Song (2), Xtreme Heat (8), Flavorofthemonth (7), I Love This Game (6)

Race 5—(Ord/Tri)—Aly Dancer (4), No Fear (1), Serious Susie (5), Tereshkova/Miss Fantastic (6)

Race 6—(Ord/Tri)—Lord Brian (6), La Perouse (7), Spanish Drums/Valid Hazm (2)

Race 7—Song Of Life (2), Kyla's Kiss (5), Mr. Godfather (7), Special Blend (6), Mayor Thunder (1)

Race 8—(Super 6/Ord/Tri)—Music Quest (7), Cash McCall (2), All Class (4), Varsity Girl (5), Loaded (10), Sky Bound (6)

Race 9—(Penta/Ord/Tri)—Wild Orchid (6), Irene's Fantasy (1), Armidale (3), Great Emma (7), Chariot Of Fire (8)

Race 10—(Super 6/Ord/Tri)—Campaig Warrior (2), Andidater (3), Just Superb (9), Twin Spires (7), Sir Barbaro (6), Wind Shore Lady (8)

Race 11—(Ord/Tri)—Danchill Dave (6), Burst Of Speed (5), Dixie Dash (1), Real Tough (7)

Race 12—(Ord/Tri)—Striking Cat/Kimagure (4), Bom's Treasure (5), En Gedi (7), Rho Sig (3)

Race 13—(Super 6/Ord/Tri)—Landed Visa (10), Speed Admiral (9), Pearl's Magic (6), Blue Sheikh (7), Interceptor (4), Angus Red (8)

Swimmer Lacson bags fourth Olympic festival gold

By June Navarro

Standings (*Gold-Silver-Bronze*)—Iloilo City 34-22-34, Iloilo Province 28-57-35, Capiz 20-14-12, Negros Occidental 20-10-7, Antique 14-8-24, Cebu 4-0-0, Bacolod City 3-1-0, Guimaras 1-2-3, Aklan 1-2-1, Negros Oriental 1-1-4

ILOILO CITY—A SCHOLARSHIP PROgram in a prestigious university has driven this lovely school girl from Bacolod City to push herself to the limit.

Krestia Angela Lacson pocketed two more gold medals yesterday to push Negros Occidental on top of the swimming competitions in the Visayas qualifying leg of the Philippine Olympic Festival at the Iloilo Sports Complex here.

Lacson added the 200-meter individual medley (two minutes and 51.63 seconds) and the 50m freestyle (31.90) titles to her earlier victories in the 100 freestyle and 100 backstroke of the girls' 15-16 category Friday.

"I stopped (competing) for almost a year but went back to training because I want to get a scholarship in Manila," said the 16-year-old Lacson, who hopes to swim either for Ateneo, La Salle or University of the Philippines in the UAAP.

A senior at the St. Scholastica Academy-Bacolod, Lacson also seized four gold medals in the 2006 Palarong Pambansa in Naga City before taking a break from actual competitions for a year.

Lacson, who could increase her medal haul today in the 800m and 200m free, beat Alexandra Nicole Catolico (2:54.29) of Iloilo City in the 200m IM. Catolico also settled for the silver in the 50m free (32.26 seconds).

Joshua Balinas and Keifer Piccio also won for the Negros Occidental tankers, who captured eight more gold medals to raise their total victories to 20 on the penultimate day of swimming competitions.

Balinas, 11, collared another gold in the boys' 11-12 50m freestyle (31.76) while the 13-year-old Piccio, a nephew of former Sydney Olympian Juan Miguel Piccio, ruled the 200m IM (2:32.92) in the boys' 13-14 category.

Despite Negros Occidental's aquatic rampage, Iloilo City remained in command in the overall standings with a collection of 34 golds, 22 silvers and 34 bronzes.

The host city dumped Iloilo province, 106-42, to snatch the basketball gold.

National shuttlers blast PBA

By Marc Anthony Reyes

SOME MEMBERS OF NATIONAL BADminton team are up in arms against officials of the Philippine Badminton Association over several issues including the PBA decision to sanction a handful of moneyed individuals to don the RP colors in international competitions.

One of the disgruntled RP shuttlers, who refused to be named, said the national players are demoralized that the PBA approved and financed the stints of several businessmen in the recent US Open.

The same players are also reportedly entered in the coming Macau Open.

"We have been training everyday but when competition comes it's them who get sent abroad," said one player. "Just because they have the money they can go and compete? That affected us deeply."

The player, who claimed he is speaking on behalf of his teammates, also complained over the lack of equipment, saying that last month they were given used shuttlecocks from the recent Philippine Open.

"How can we improve if we use used shuttlecocks," he said, adding that the foreign coaches promised them before the Philippine Open last July have yet to arrive up to now.

PBA secretary general Gen. George Piano admitted that players outside of the national team competed in the US Open last month but claimed that they only saw action in the masters category.

"There are different categories in the US Open, one is the Elite and the other is the Masters for seniors," Piano told the INQUIRER. "In the US Open Masters, you are not required to be a member of the national team."

The PBA official said the association is hampered by lack of fund like all NSAs and allowed those with funds to compete abroad only to keep the sport going.

Piano admitted that the PBA officials have not sat down in a meeting with the players lately but said the used shuttlecocks were not for the use of the nationals.

"Coach Errol Chan is taking care of the supplies of the national team," Piano said.

Athletics has new Dawn

15-year-old Filipino-Canadian was born to run

By June Navarro

ILOILO CITY—JAMI DAWN Henares came out of her mother's womb 15 minutes after her mom entered the delivery room.

At age 12, the charming Filipino-Canadian lass was already outsprinting boys of her age during fun races for kids.

"From the looks of it, she wasn't meant to just walk, she was born to run," said Emilio Henares, Jami's father and a pastor at the River of Life Church in Bacolod City.

The signs were there but it was only in the summer of 2006, when the family visited Virginia for a church-related activity, that Emilio noticed really something different about his daughter.

Something very special and promising.

Without formal training, Jami competed and won a gold medal in the 200-meter dash during the International Student Championships in Harrisonburg, Virginia.

Since then, father and daughter polished Jami's God-given gift with the help of Franklin Echiverria, track and field coach at the University of St. La Salle-Bacolod.

Echeverria revealed that he has been using biometrics to identify what type of training Henares should undergo.

Apart from the right nutrition and supplement, Echeverria said Henares has an on-and-off-season program and adopts a customized training regimen based on internet research.

"I don't want to rush her. We could reach her maximum potential by doing it slowly but surely," said Echeverria.

Their efforts bore fruit the other day when the 5-foot-6 Henares caught the attention of Philippine Olympic Festival officials here after winning the girls' 200 and 400 meters with impressive clockings.

Track and field technical officials immediately told POF and Philippine Olympic Committee chairman Robert Aventajado that they've found a speedster with the potential to be another Lydia De Vega-Mercado, a former two-time Asian Games 100-meter champion.

"I have heard of her (De Vega-Mercado). I just hope to reach the best that I could be," said Henares, 15, a high school senior at the Destiny Christian Academy of Bacolod.

Aventajado has asked Echeverria to outline a training plan for Henares until the 2010 Youth Olympics, which the POC will seriously discuss in the future.

JAMI Dawn Henares shows off her medals. RAFFY LERMA

Pucay shoots 66, stays 5 shots behind leader

GUANGZHOU—MARS PUCAY OF THE Philippines kept up his blazing form with a five-under-par 66 that boosted him to fourth place after three rounds of the Midea China Classic here Saturday.

The Filipino veteran, who had earlier rounds of 66-67, posted a 54-hole 14-under total of 199, five strokes off Scotsman Simon Yates and Thai young gun Chinarat Phadungsil at the Royal Orchid International Golf Club.

Yates, 37, blasted a stunning nine-under-par 62 as he equaled the course record set by Chinarat who fired a 64 in the third round. The duo were tied at 19-under-par 194.

Thaworn Wiratchant of Thailand carded a 68 and was three strokes up on Pucay, who is gunning for his highest finish in 12 years on the circuit.

Jerome Delariarte shot a 64 and looked forward to a rare top 10 windup as he joined a seven-way tie for 11th at 202. Juvic Pagunsan stood at 1-under 212 (72-69-71).

Meanwhile, Frankie Miñoza faltered in the third round with a 74 after shooting two 69s and dropped into a tie for 27th place with a 212 three-round total in the Ana Open in Hokkaido, Japan.

Sushi Ishigaki and Yasuharu Imano of Japan shared the lead at 207.

Six schools join intercollegiate golf

A NEW SCHOOL LEAGUE IS BORN.

Six universities and colleges have confirmed participation in the National Intercollegiate Golf 2007, a series of 36-hole competitions supported by the Philippine Golf Foundation designed to provide students a venue for game improvement and help them make a career out of golf.

The initial run of the National Intercollegiate will see six schools—Ateneo, La Salle, University of the Philippines, University of the East, University of Asia and the Pacific and College of St. Benilde—vying for team and individual honors.

The Philippine Golf Foundation has made a firm commitment to bankroll the launching edition of the National Intercollegiate to minimize the expenses of participating students. The event has also drawn five exclusive golf clubs in Luzon which are generously waiving the green fees of the college players.

The Splendido Golf and Country Club will host the first leg on October 22-23, Eagle Ridge Golf and Country Club will be the venue of the second stop on November 5-6, Canlubang Golf and Country Club on December 3-4, Mount Malarayat on January 7-8 and Tagaytay Midlands on February 17-18.

Arsenic Laurel, who is spearheading the league, said that they are looking beyond tournament play for college players.

"It's really making college education available to young golfers while they continue to play competitive golf," said Laurel.

Laurel added that they want to address the lack of tournaments for graduates of the jungolf ranks.

Unknown bet shocks Pagulayan

UNHERALDED PANFILO DAMUAG posted back-to-back upset wins to join top favorites Francisco "Django" Bustamante and Efren "Bata" Reyes at the helm of the 4th San Miguel Beer (SMB) Philippine Open 9-ball Championship at the Silvercity Mall, Julia Vargas Ave., Ortigas Center over the weekend.

The 30-year-old Damuag, playing out of the Negros Billiard stable, stunned 2004 World 9-ball champion Alex Pagulayan, 9-6, and 2007 Battle of Scandinavia 9-ball runner-up Jharome Peña, 9-4, respectively, to set up a third round clash with last year's runner-up Leonardo Didal, who beat Jech-Jech Limen, 9-5, and Michael Feliciano, 9-4.

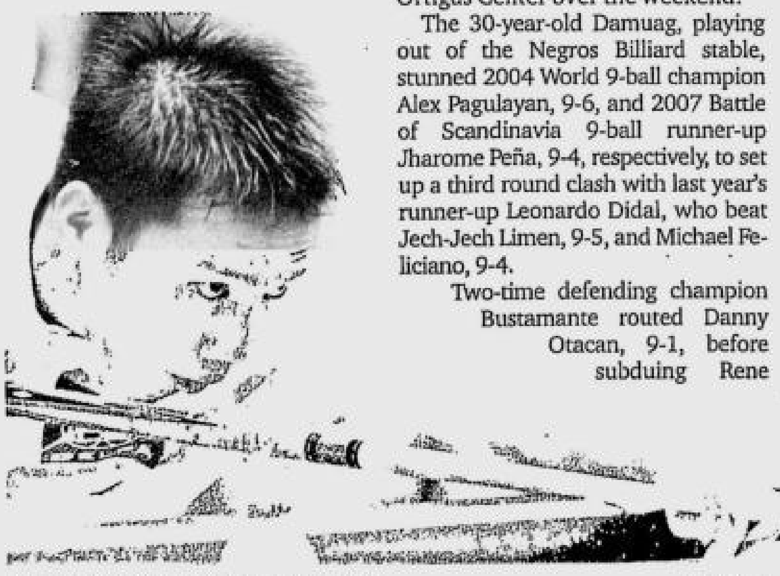
Two-time defending champion Bustamante routed Danny Otacan, 9-1, before subduing Rene Cruz, 9-6, to set up a meeting with 2006 Kuwait 9-ball Open champion Jundel Mazon, conqueror of Jose "Amang" Parica, 9-3, and reigning National Open champion Lee Vann Corteza, 9-8, respectively.

Hall-of-Famer Reyes, the 1999 Cardiff World 9-ball champion, crushed Eduardo Villanueva, 9-2, and Carlo Biado, 9-5, to forge a duel with 2007 US Bar Table 9-ball and 8-ball champion Warren Kiamco, who beat Jeffrey de Luna, 9-8, and JayJay Millares, 9-3.

The Bacolod City-based Damuag, who hails from Norala, South Cotabato, trailed at 6-2 before clinching the next seven racks to seal the victory over Pagulayan, also the 2005 US Open and 2006 BSCP National Pool Championships winner.

Damuag, the 2004 Sagay Festival and 2004 San Carlos City champion, surged to a 5-2 lead and then held his ground in the alternate break format.

Marlon Bernardino, Contributor



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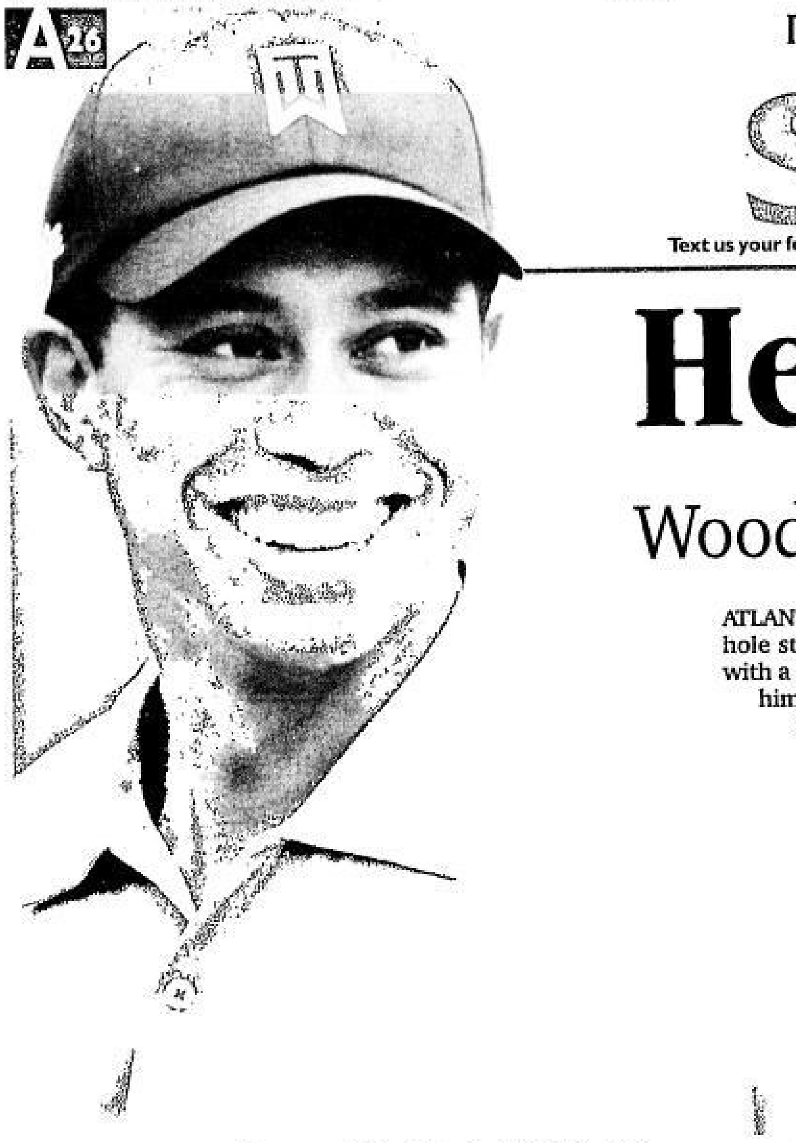


UNLESS things go terribly wrong, Tiger Woods will find 10 million more reasons to smile. AP

Here comes the Tiger

Woods grabs three-shot Tour Championship lead

ATLANTA—TIGER WOODS PLAYED A SIX-hole stretch in 7 under par but followed with a back nine of even-par golf that left him three strokes ahead of the field Friday after two rounds of the US Tour Championship.

Tearing apart a defenseless course at East Lake Golf Club, Woods made five straight birdies and capped it with a 70-foot eagle putt on the par-5 ninth hole to make the turn in 28. But he went five holes before his next birdie, and he had to settle for a 7-under 63 that had him three ahead of Woody Austin.

Woods was at 13-under 127, his best start to a tournament since he was 15-under through 36 holes at Firestone in 2000, which he went on to win by 11 shots.

Austin had his second straight 65 and will play in the final group Saturday with Woods.

"He's not hard to beat if you're playing as well and you're right there," Austin said. "But if you let him get in front of you, like I said, he's hard to catch."

In August, Austin suggested he outplayed Woods in the second round of the PGA Championship, the day Woods tied a major championship record with 63 and Austin shot 70.

Austin went on to finish second at Southern Hills, and he'll get a chance to play with the world's No. 1 player on Saturday in presumably sunny conditions. Woods and 19 other players had to return Friday morning to complete the first round, and he wound up playing 25 holes and finishing in time to beat the rumble of thunder.

Woods is atop the U.S. PGA Tour's "playoff" standings. A victory would give him the FedEx Cup and the $10 million (euro7.2 million) prize. Steve Stricker, who needs to win to capture the cup, shot 67 and was nine shots behind. Phil Mickelson, who can only claim the FedEx Cup if he wins the Tour Championship and Woods finishes worse than second, was seven shots behind after a 66.

Only a half-dozen players were within five shots of Woods, who hasn't hasn't lost a 36-hole lead in three years.

Tim Clark followed his record-tying 62 at East Lake with a 69 and in the group at 9-under 131 that included defending champion Adam Scott (66) and Mark Calcavecchia (66). K.J. Choi, still mathematically alive for the FedEx Cup, had a 65 and moved to 8-under 132 along with Sergio Garcia (64). *AP*

Labajo seals RP Amateur golf title duel vs A. Fernando

By Musong R. Castillo

ILOILO CITY—MARIO LABAJO, WHOSE only chance of getting into the RP Team is to win the Philippine Amateur championship, has but one national team member left to conquer and complete his quest—and ultimately prove his worth.

The giant killer from Davao took out another favored RP player yesterday morning in Canlubang stablemate Mark Fernando after 19 holes before disposing of a club caddy in the afternoon to make the 36-hole title match at the Iloilo Golf and Country Club here.

After taking out Philippine ace Jay Bayron in the first round on Friday, Labajo, the seventh seed, nailed a 20-foot downhill putt for birdie on No. 13 before clinching a 2 and 1 victory over Ruben Menor with a routine par on the 17th.

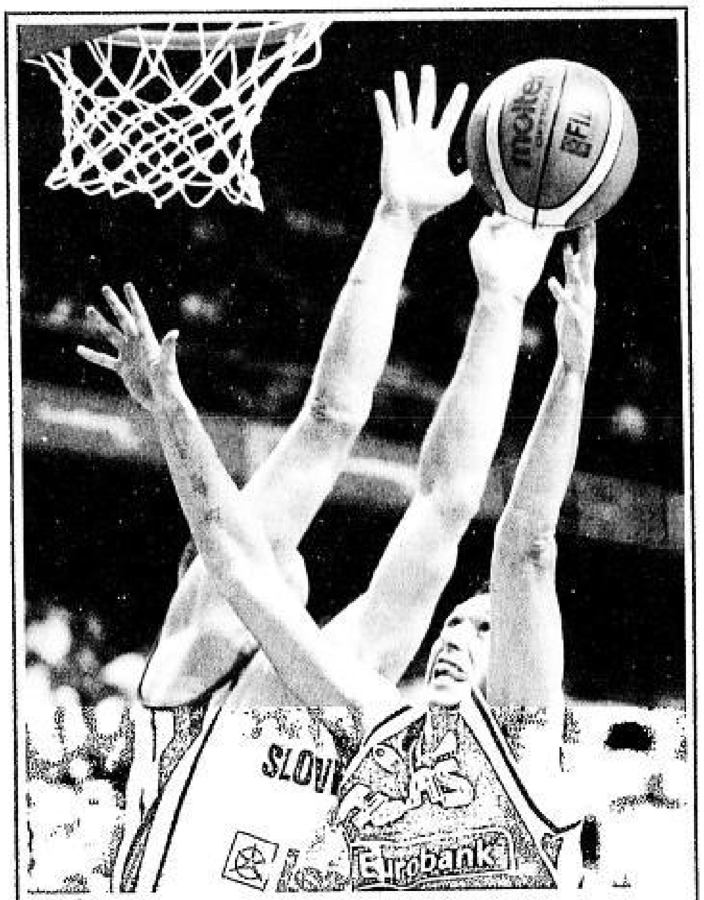
Now standing in his way is Anthony Fernando, another national team member who nipped Rufino Bayron in the morning before coming back to trounce last year's losing finalist, Tonlits Asistio, 3 and 2 in the semifinals.

After skipping the RP Team tryouts a week ago at the Riviera, Labajo's only chance at making the pool is to win this tournament to become the sixth member over Michael Bibat—the early sixth qualifier, who will slide down as the first alternate.

"I'm not really thinking of that at this time," the 36-year-old Labajo, a former caddy at Matina who was discovered by the National Caddies' Open program, told the INQUIRER in Filipino.

The final round is set for 36 holes today.

Asian Games veteran Anya Tanpinco and Sunshine Baraquiel, meanwhile, will dispute the ladies title after taking care of separate foes earlier.



SEMIFINAL-BOUND: Greece's Dimitrios Diamantidis (right) shoots against Slovenia in the quarterfinals of the European Basketball Championships. Greece rallied to nip Slovenia, 63-62, to forge a semifinal battle with world champion and host Spain. Lithuania defeated Croatia, 74-72 and will face Russia in the other semifinal. AFP

FIA: Alonso played part in spy scandal

ALONSO REUTERS

SPA-FRANCORCHAMPS, Belgium—World champion Fernando Alonso knew a lot about Ferrari—even down to what high-tech substance it was using to inflate its tires to keep them from blistering.

With stunning detail, the International Automobile Federation (FIA) disclosed the extent of what McLaren's drivers knew about their rivals cars, their setup and even their strategy.

In the biggest scandal to hit one of the world's most popular sports, FIA implicated McLaren's top driver on Friday and its test driver Pedro de la Rosa through a trail of e-mail exchanges.

"The e-mails show unequivocally that both Mr. Alonso and Mr. de la Rosa received confidential Ferrari information," FIA said in a 15-page explanation of the World Motor Sport Council's decision to fine McLaren a record US$100 million.

The WMSC said it had documents showing the exchange of information between the two drivers and McLaren's then chief designer, Michael Coughlan.

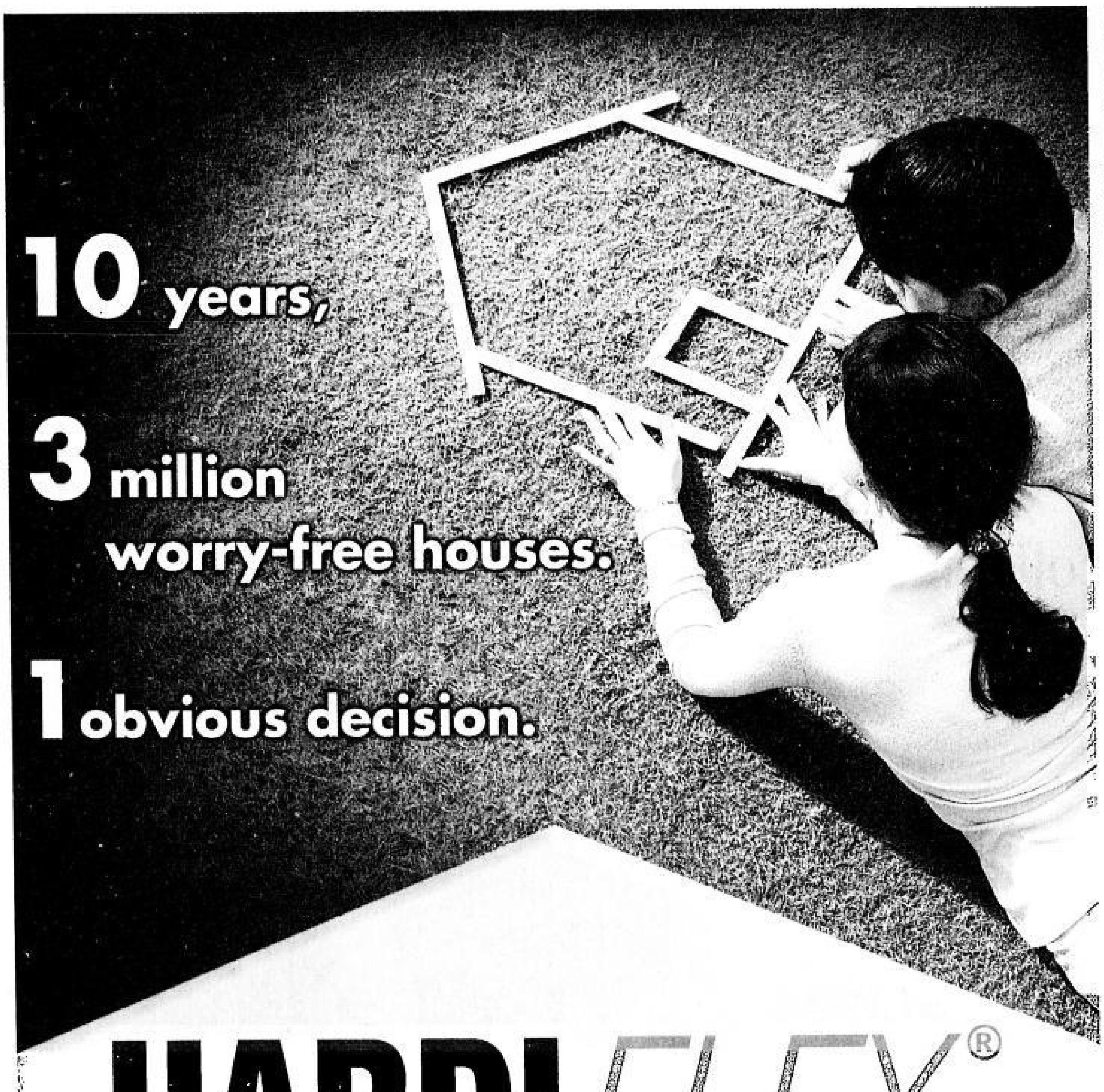
The e-mails showed how specific the knowledge just was.

"Hi Mike, do you know the Red Car's Weight Distribution? It would be important for us to know so that we could try it in the simulator. Thanks in advance, Pedro," FIA quoted De la Rosa's message to Coughlan as saying.

In another e-mail quoted by FIA, de la Rosa wrote to Alonso about a gaseous substance Ferrari was using to inflate its tires.

"We'll have to try it, it's easy," wrote de la Rosa.

FIA said Alonso replied: "Let's hope we can test it during this test, and that we can make it a priority!" *AP*



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Heritage resto serves greener pizza

MARC Nepomuceno at the door of Historic Camalig Restaurant (left), which serves pizza in a bilao (below).

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Text and Photos by Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

ANGELES CITY—PIZZA IN A bilao?

That Italian fare really comes in round bamboo trays at the Armando's Pizza here. And this is no recent pizza packaging style.

"We've been happily at it since 1982," said Marc Nepomuceno, owner of Historic Camalig Restaurant. It sells exclusively the Armando's Pizza, which is named after Nepomuceno's father.

Rendered a local taste and served in a *bilao*—*igu* to Kapampangan—Armando's Pizza is proudly billed "Ang Pambansang Pizza (The National Pizza)."

"Pizza is traditionally round just as an igu is round, so it makes perfect sense," he said.

Nepomuceno used to pack the pizza in cardboards for a time but adopted the igu "as a result of what was then as it is still now the family's shared concern for the continuing problem of deforestation."

Family means he and his siblings Olivia, Armanda and Mariel. In using the igu, they pioneered the use of reusable, eco-friendly packaging long before the environmental activists asked businesses to go green.

"All that cardboard makes you think about all those trees. And when you get flash floods and landslides like you get your 24/7 pizza delivery, you'd be thinking about the trees," Nepomuceno said.

"While it is true that cardboard boxes are biodegradable, people don't really have much use for the box, especially when the pizza's gone. So the box ends up in some neighborhood dumpsite along with your styro cups and your plastic grocery bags, until the rain comes and you probably know how the rest of the story goes," he said.

Aside from that small act for Mother Earth, the use of the igu also helps sustain the jobs of makers of native baskets, he said.

So in this local pizzeria, it's like eating your pizza and saving the planet as well, Nepomuceno said.

The success of Camalig is fascinating as well.

Since it was established in 1980, all that it sold was pizza—15 flavors in all.

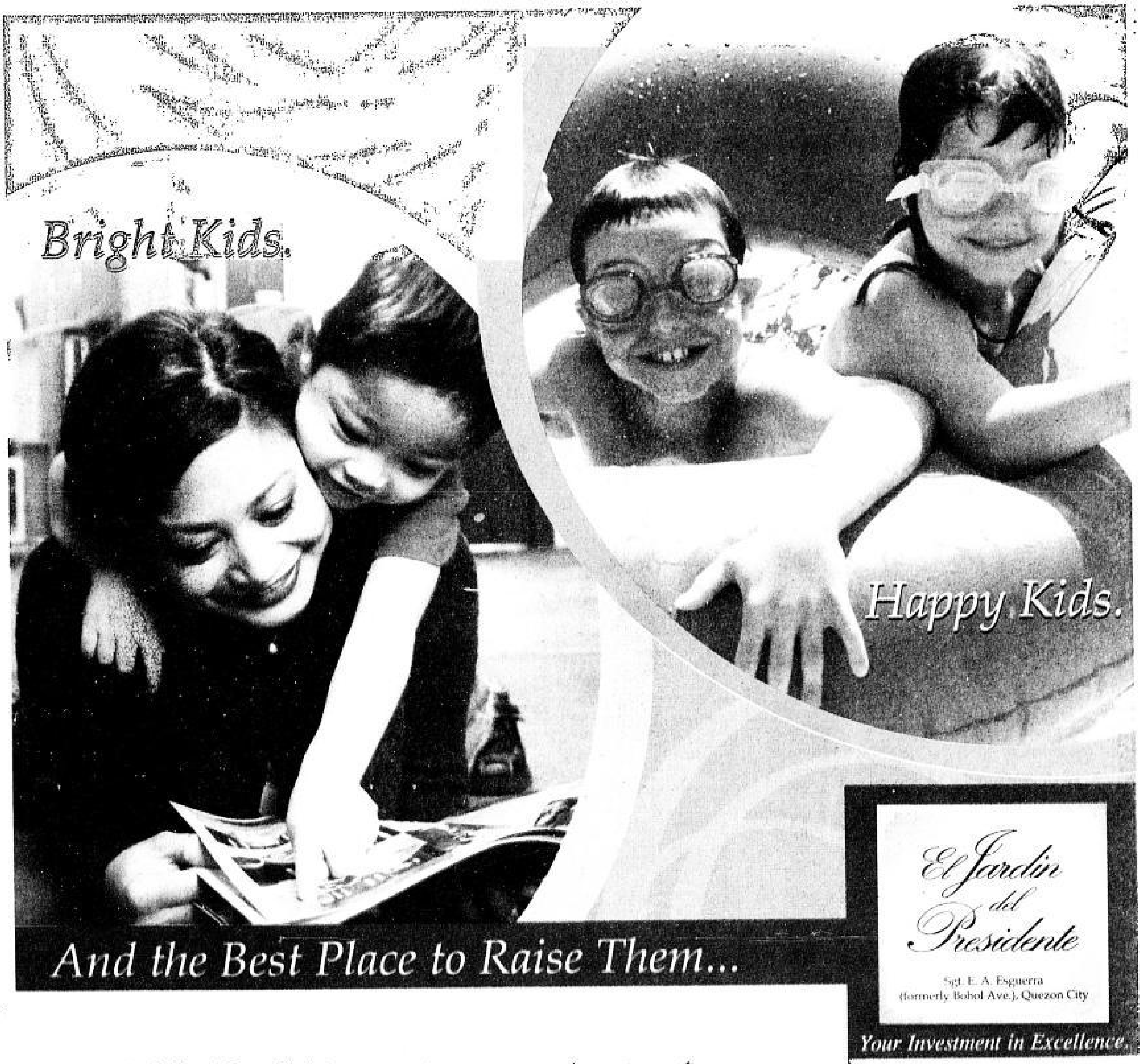
Drawing clients

But it is not just pizza that draws in the clients.

The place, actually the family's ancestral grain depot or *camalig* to old folks, is a

HERITAGE/ B2

WELCOME, in the local dialect, greets Camalig-goers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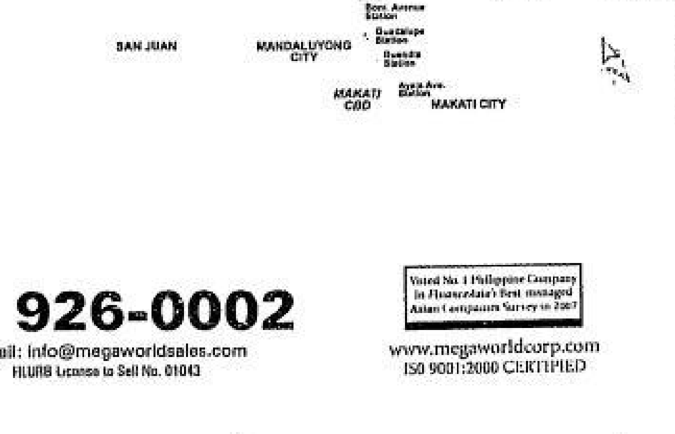

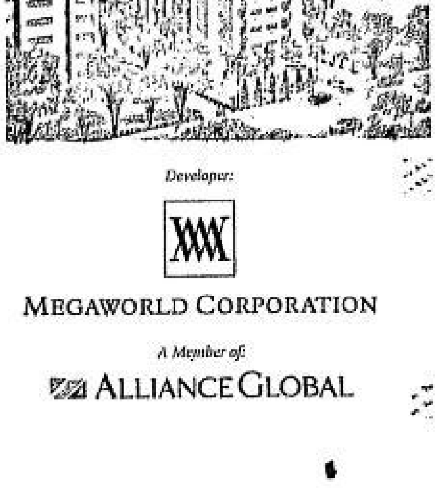

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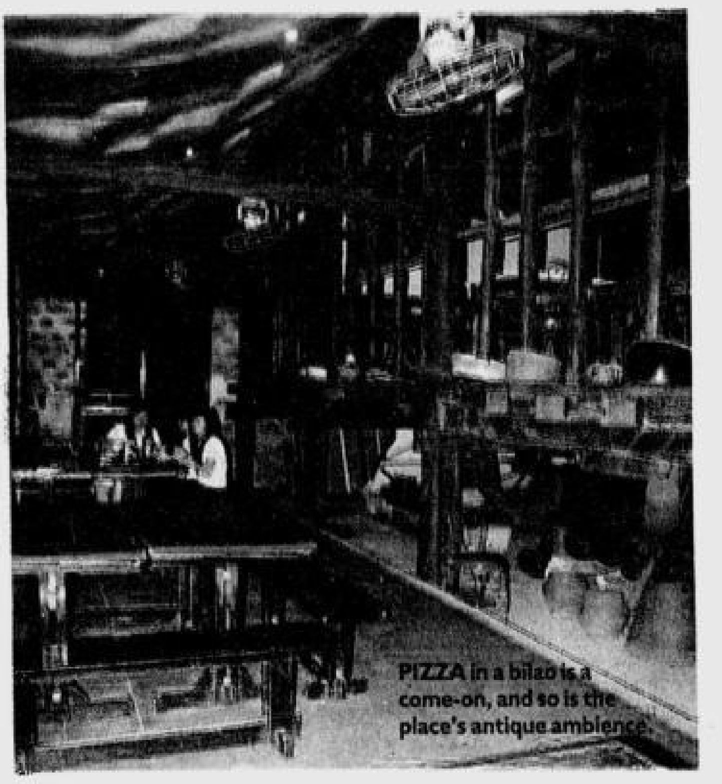
Heritage resto serves greener pizza

From page B1



PIZZA in a bilao is a come-on, and so is the place's antique ambience.

come-on to many.

Because "99.9 percent" of the mostly wooden structure was retained except for the packed earth flooring, Nepomuceno said the camalig gives the restaurant a rustic ambiance.

The business has gone this long because, in Nepomuceno's view, it "maintained the same quality of pizza through the years."

"The place and the pizza went hand in hand. The place and product enhance the eating experience. It combined the new and the old," he said.

Armando's Pizza built its following on King's Pizza which Armando and former American serviceman Harry Walpole ran together since 1973. The original location was a front lot at the 2,400-square-meter land of the Nepomucenos on Sto. Rosario Street.

Behind the first restaurant was the camalig that, by then, was "filled with discards from past decades."

King's Pizza also had branches in Balibago, an Angeles village right next to the former Clark Air Base, and in Olongapo City, another American base town.

The pizza, a western introduction, was "Filipinized" to suit local taste.

Secret sauce

The secret, according to Nepomuceno, was in the tomato sauce. Its sweet, spicy and sour blend tastes the same way as it was in 1973, he said.

Armando, known around as "Doy," continued the business after Walpole left the partnership.

He concocted the "Doy's Kapampangan" pizza for local folk. It is actually topped with *ebun buru* (salted eggs), longganiza (local meat sausage) and onions.

Wanting to replace the first restaurant just made of bamboo then, Armando agreed to the plan of his children to convert the camalig into a new home of the Armando's Pizza.

"Adaptive reuse" was how Nepomuceno called the move in 1980. The place took on the name "Historic Camalig Restaurant, Home of Armando's Pizza and Pasta."

Heritage

The grain depot has its own history, marked in the wills left by the clan's women ancestors.

In the 1867 will of Carlota de Leon, the structure was merely a "balong-balong" or a lean-to shelter. It stood next to the house owned by her husband, Angeles City founder's son, Don Ciriaco de Miranda. That house was built in 1840.

A will in 1895, this time by Agustina Henson, the niece and foster daughter of Carlota and Ciriaco, also the daughter of his sister Juana de Miranda and Don Mariano Henson, mentioned for the first time the existence of a camalig.

Agustina married Pio Rafael Nepomuceno, the great, great grandfather of Nepomuceno.

"My sister Olivia wanted to create an old town atmosphere, a heritage place where one could experience the past," Nepomuceno recalled of the fledgling years.

By about the same time, the Angeles City Historical Committee, where the siblings were also active, called the attention of the national government to save the Pamintuan mansion where President Emilio Aguinaldo transferred the seat of government in 1899.

At the camalig, the siblings put on permanent exhibit the family's antique farming tools, household items and old photographs of families in the city.

With pizza served in a Filipino-Spanish setting filled with memoirs of the past, the restaurant clicked. Students and workers started coming in.

Medium-sized pizza, at 10-inch in diameter, then sold at P8 while beer went for P2 a bottle.

The cheese, like it was then, was not mozzarella. The special sauce gave the pizza the taste that drew the crowd.

Mariel Francisco, the artist and writer among the siblings, introduced the vegetarian pizza.

Local art center

While it became the prime vintage joint, Camalig also became the center of the local art movement.

There, the multi-art group Mix-Up performed. Zarzuelas, Valentine shows, bands playing jazz and folk saw acts on its stage.

Activists also found room for their antibase, antinuclear arms forums. It was also the headquarters of the Movement Against the Disenfranchisement of the Electorate (Made) in Angeles before the People Power Revolt in 1986.

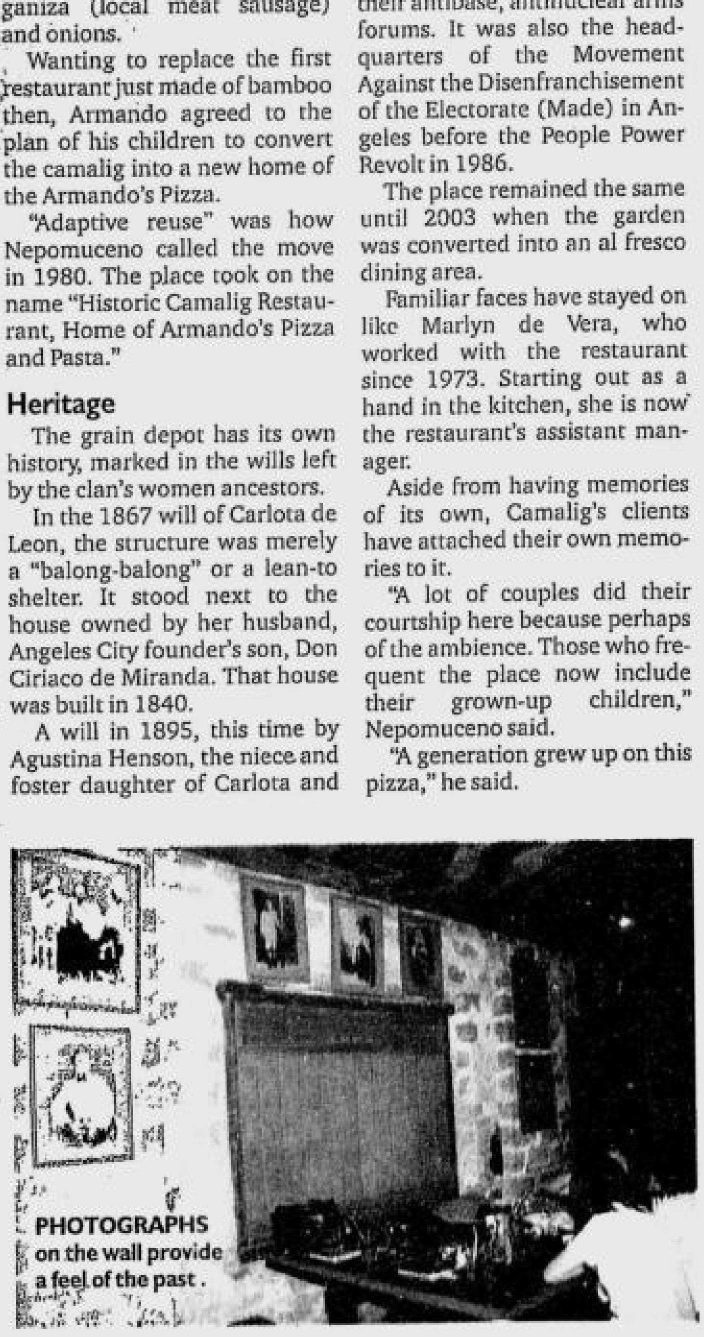
The place remained the same until 2003 when the garden was converted into an al fresco dining area.

Familiar faces have stayed on like Marlyn de Vera, who worked with the restaurant since 1973. Starting out as a hand in the kitchen, she is now the restaurant's assistant manager.

Aside from having memories of its own, Camalig's clients have attached their own memories to it.

"A lot of couples did their courtship here because perhaps of the ambience. Those who frequent the place now include their grown-up children," Nepomuceno said.

"A generation grew up on this pizza," he said.



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MINDANAO PROPERTIES

CAGAYAN DE ORO
Text 09217388885

SAM_CDO215 RSDL LOT
LA. 2,590 sqm. (200 meters away from Cagayan De Oro Oil Company)
BRGY. AGUSAN
Min. Bid Price: P777,000

SAM_CDO 216 RSDL LOT
LA. 413 sqm
Ramoncito Velez St., APOVEL SUBD., Bulua District
Min. Bid Price: P935,000

SAM_CDO217 RSDL LOT
LA 765 sqm. (near City Engineering Ofc)
FAIRLANE SUBD. Kauswagan
Min. Bid Price: P645,000

SAM_CDO220 RSDL LOT
BRGY CARMEN(near NIA Office)

Lot Area	Min. Bid Price
600 sqm.	P 282,925
1,409.10 sqm.	P 849,212

SAM_CDO221 AGRI LOT
LA. 28,907 sqm.
(near Women's Dev't Center)
BRGY. CANITO-AN
Min. Bid Price:P3,685,643

SAM_CDO225 RSDL LOT
LA. 500 sqm. (inside Agapi Dalva Subd.)
Tibasak, MACASANDIG
Min. Bid Price: P625,000

SAM_CDO227 COMM'L LOT
LA. 442 sqm. (adjacent to Xavier Univ.)
HAYES ST. POBLACION
Min. Bid Price.P4,763,013

SAM_CDO228 COMM'L LOT
MAKAHAMBUS Burgos St. Pob.
(Near FaithTabernacle Churh)

Lot Area	Min. Bid Price
349 sqm	P 1,794,000
618 sqm	P 3,177,000

SAM_CDO230 COMM'L BLDG.
LA. 306 sqm. FA. 406 sqm.
(fronting Ma. Reyna Hospital)
Arch. S. Hayes St. Ext.
BRGY CAMAMAN-AN
Min. Bid Price: P3,298,094

SAM_CDO231 AGRI LOT
LA. 47,975 sqm.
(near Catanico Elem. Schl.)
Catinaco, SINONOP DIST.
Min. Bid Price:P4,077,875

SAM_CDO232 RSDL LOT
LA. 1,021 sqm.
(inside Villa Ernesto Subd.)
VILLA ERNESTO SUBD.. Phase 2, Gusa
Min. Bid Price:P743,688

SAM_CDO233 RSDL LOT
LA. 27,920 sqm.
(near Bulabal Elem. Schl.)
BALUBAL
Min Bid Price:P4,747,930

SAM_CDO235 RSDL LOT
LA. 2,130 sqm. FA 338 sqm
Super Highway, KAUSWAGAN
Min. Bid Price:P4,304,497

SAM_CDO236 RSDL LOT
LA. 10,344(near Rosewood Subd.)
BRGY. CAMAMAN-AN
Min. Bid Price:P2,635,170

SAM_CDO237 2-STY HOUSE & LOT
LA. 1,662 sqm FA. 173 sqm.
(across the property of Oro Rama Mega Center) LAPASAN
Min. Bid Price: P8,310,000

COMPOSTELA VALLEY

SAM_CMP240 HOUSE & LOT
LA. 1,204 sqm. FA. 505 sqm.
(near Rural Bank)
Judge E. Chavez St.
POB. NABUNTURAN
Min. Bid Price:P2,433,152

SAM_CMP241 RSDL BLDG.
LA. 300 sqm.
Malasugan-Panag Rd. Brgy. Panag
Bo. Katipunan, NEW BATAAN
Min. Bid Price:P255,000

SAM_CMP244 RSDL LOT
LA. 7,727 sqm.
Penaranda cor. Gen. Ebuen Sts.
POBLACION MONYAKO
Min. Bid Price:P16,419,875

DAVAO
Text 09198209662

SAM_DAV 251 AGRI LOT
LA. 39,366 sqm
(near San Agustin Chapel)
Sitio Ramihan, TORIL
Min. Bid Price: P13,069,195

SAM_DAV252 HOUSE & LOT
LA. 1,334 sqm.(near Pilipinas Ave.)
Zamboanga cor. Samal Sts. INSULAR VILL.,PII, Buhangin
Min. Bid Price:P6,087,604

SAM_DAV254 COMM'L LOT
LA. 20,884 sqm.
NAT'L HIGHWAY Brgy. Dumoy
Min. Bid Price: P6,205,769

SAM_DAV255 RSD'L/COMM'L LOT
LA. 157 sqm.
(near University Of Immaculate Concepcion) Bonifacio St.,
STA. ANA DISTRICT
Min. Bid Price: P2,402,100

SAM_DAV256 RSD'L LOT
LA. 300,000 sqm.
Brgy. Balok DIST. OF TALOMO
Min. Bid Price: P56,461,108

SAM_DAV257 RSD' L LOT
LA. 90,473 sqm.
(near Davao Holy Trinity)
Brgy. Road, BRGY. BAGO GALLERA
Min. Bid Price: P31,685,000

SAM_DAV258 IND'L LOT W/ HOUSE
LA. 18,823 sqm. FA. 122 sqm.
National Highway, Bago Aplaya, DUMOY, Toril
Min. Bid Price:P31,999,100

SAM_DAV261 VARIOUS COMM'L BLDG
LA. 8,760 sqm FA. 3,944 sqm.
(near Ecoland subd.)
QUIMPO BOULEVARD, Matina
Min. Bid Price: P60,000,000

SAM_DAV263 HOUSE & LOT
LA. 500 sqm.
Diamond St. NACILLA SUBD.
Brgy. Ma-a Talomo
Min. Bid Price:P1,062,500

SAM_DAV269 RSDL LOT
GREEN HEIGHTS. GARDEN VILL.
Buhangin Dist.

Lot Area	Min. Bid Price:
196 sqm.	P 499,800
430 sqm.	P 1,096,500
3,017 sqm.	P 6,924,015
3,204 sqm.	P 7,353,180
8,351 sqm.	P24,236,946

SAM_DAV270 HOUSE & LOT
GREEN HEIGHTS. GARDEN VILL.
Buhangin Dist. (near Club House)

Lot Area	Flr Area	Min. Bid Price
200sqm	217sqm	P 3,689,000
299sqm	217sqm	P 2,768,750

SAM_DAV272 COMM'L LOT
LA. 3,209 sqm.
Fil-Japan Friendship Hi-way/Rd Lot 3
GREEN HEIGHTS. GARDEN VILL.
Buhangin Dist.
Min. Bid Price:P8,182,950

SAM_DAV273 COMM'L BLDG.
LA. 7,828 sqm. FA. 8,356 sqm.
(along Diversion Rd.) Fil-Japan Friendship Hi-way GREEN HEIGHTS GARDEN VILL. BUHANGIN
Min. Bid Price:P66,577,100

SAM_DAV274 2 STRY. COMM'L LOT w. WAREHOUSE
LA. 8,453 sqm. FA. 3,484
(beside Greenheights Subd.)
ZUELIG PHARMA BLDG.. Diversion Rd.
Min. Bid Price:P86,220,800

SAM_DAV276 6-UNITS 2-STRY TOWNHSE
LA. 748 sqm. FA. 206
GREEN HEIGHTS GARDEN VILL.
BUHANGIN
Min. Bid Price:P21,012,000

SAM_DAV280 RSDL LOT
LA. 1,000 sqm.
BO. PAMPANGA
Min. Bid Price: P2,375,000

SAM_DAV281 2 STRY HOUSE & LOT
LA. 894 sqm. FA. 90 sqm.
(right behind Farmacia Sta. Ana, Matina)
STO. NINO COMMUNITY, Brgy. Matina
Min. Bid Price: P2,207,000

SAM_DAV285 AGRI LOT
LA. 16,417 sqm.
Upper Piedad, TORIL DIST.
Min. Bid Price:P14,000,350

SAM_DAV286 RSDL LOT
LA. 2,562 sqm (near Pilipinosas Subd.)
San Vicente, PANABO
Min. Bid Price: P640,000

SAM_DAV291 HOUSE & LOT
LA. 806 sqm. FA. 216 sqm.
Near Poblacion Brgy. Hall
ELPIDIO QUIRINO AVE.
Brgy.4 Pob. Dist.
Min. Bid Price: P8,060,000

SAM_DAV292 RSD' L LOT
LA. 4,000 sqm.
NAT'L H-WAY, Bago
Min. Bid Price: P12,394,796

SAM_DAV294 AGRI LOT
LA. 16,044 sqm. (near NIA Rd)
Brgy. Del Pilar, NEW CORELLA
Min. Bid Price:P2,045,610

SAM_DAV296 2-STRY HOUSE & LOT
LA. 600 sqm FA. 81sqm.
(near Alliance Learning Center)
Brgy. Road, Poblacion, NEW CORELLA
Min. Bid Price: P450,000

SAM_DAV298 HOUSE & LOT
LA. 14,214 sqm. FA. 380 sqm.
(along MATI Nat'l Highway)
BRGY. BAGUMBAYAN, Lupon
Min. Bid Price:P1,914,896

SAM_DAV299 INDS'L LOT
LA. 94,687 sqm
Davao - Agusan Nat'l. Road
Brgy. Mahayag, BUNAWAN DIST.
Min. Bid Price:P224,881,625

SAM_DAV301 AGRI LOT
LA. 74,632 sqm.
BRGY. POBLACION
Min. Bid Price:P31,718,600

SAM_DAV303 RESORT LOT
LA. 68,285 sqm
GULF VIEW EXEC. HOMES, Ph II
Bago Aplaya, Talomo

Lot Area	Min. Bid Price
185 sqm.	P 249,750
200 sqm.	P 270,000

SAM_DAV304 3 STRY COMM'L /OFFICE BLDG
LA 820 sqm F.A. 1,786 sqm.
(near BPI San Pedro)
SAN PEDRO ST., Poblacion
Min. Bid Price: P16,000,000

SAM_DAV307 AGRI LOTS
LA. 477,481sqm.
BO. MATINA PANGI
Min. Bid Price: P 179,055,375

SAM_DAV465 RSDL TOWNHOUSE
LA 280 sqm.
GREEN HTS. GARDEN VILL.
BUHANGIN (near Club House)
Min. Bid Price: P4,760,000

GENERAL SANTOS
Text 09267666746

SAM_GSC314 COMM'L LOT W. IMPROVEMENT
LA 7,501 sqm FA 4,897 sqm
(BESIDE China Bank)
SANTIAGO BOULEVARD, Bario Lagao
Min. Bid Price:P96,759,750

SAM_GSC316 AGRI LOT
LA 18,369 sqm
(Near Tinagacan Proposed Market Site)
BARRIO TINAGCAN
Min. Bid Price:P2,474,783

SAM_GSC318 RSDL LOT
LA 1,470 sqm.(w/n Roca Subd.)
BRGY. APUPONG
Min. Bid Price:P624,750

SAM_GSC320 IND'L LOT
LA 30,997 sqm.(near former MSU Rd)
BARRIO TAMBLER
Min. Bid Price: P1[illegible]440,258

SAM_GSC321 HOUSE & LOT
LA 1,034 sqm. FA 246 sqm.
(Near Cambridge Hotel and Restaurant)
MANANSALA SUBD.., Brgy. San Isidro,
Min. Bid Price:P3,412,450

SAM_GSC322 RSD'L LOT
LA. 360 sqm.(back of Honzin Tin Can)
DON GABRIEL SUBD..Bo. of Tambler
Min. Bid Price: P306,000

SAM_GSC324 COMM'L LOT W/ STALL
LA 600 sqm. FA 18 sqm
(front of Phela Grande Convention)
NAT'L HIGHWAY
Min. Bid Price:P2,550,000

SAM_GSC325 HOUSE & LOT
LA.500 sqm. FA.257 sqm.
CABE SUBD.
Min. Bid Price: P850,000

SAM_GSC326 IND'L LOT
LA. 10,304 sqm.,
BO. OF TAMBLER (MCU Rd.)
Min. Bid Price:P 2,189,600

SAM_GSC327 RSD'L VACANT LOT
LA. 10,000 sqm.
NAT'L HIGHWAY Brgy. Sinawal
Min. Bid Price: P3,400,000

SAM_GSC330 RSDL LOT
LA 457 sqm
(near Gen. San City Terminal)
BULAONG SUBD.. Dadiangas North
Min. Bid Price:P914,000

SAM_GSC331 RSDL LOT
LA 5,000 sqm
(near Monsanto Hybrid Farm)
Brgy. Rd. Purok 16,LAGAO
Min. Bid Price:P4,250,000

SAM_GSC332 HOUSE & LOT
LA 508 sqm FA 103 sqm
Bluefin cor. Goldfish Sts
ESPINA SUBD.. Purok Mauswagon,
Brgy. Labangal(near SSS)
Min. Bid Price:P893,775

SAM_GSC334 RSDL LOT
LA 749 sqm(near Pacheco Subd.)
AQUINO SUBD., Purok Kaunlaran
Brgy. San Isidro
Min. Bid Price:P636,650

SAM_GSC335 COMM'L LOT
LA 274 sqm FA 274 sqm
(fronting Notre Dame of Dadiangas Univ.)
NATIONAL HIGHWAY
Min. Bid Price:P3,493,500

SAM_GSC336 RSDL LOT W/ IMPV'T
LA 603 sqm FA 78 sqm
Pili Corner J.P. LAUREL ST.
Min. Bid Price:P1,537,650

SAM_GSC338 RSDL LOTS
LA 2,061 sqm.
Zone 2-B, Bula
Min. Bid Price: P1,224,909

SAM_GSC339 COMM'L LOT
LA 778 sqm.
(Fronting former Bayfront Noodle House)
P. Acharon Blvd. cor. Salazar & Veterans Sts., BRGY.DADIANGAS SOUTH
Min. Bid Price:P11,242,100

SAM_GSC341 COMM'L LOT
LA 1,109 sqm
CALUMPANG AVE., Calumpang
Min. Bid Price:P4,092,559

SAM_GSC343 AGRI LOT
LA 20,293 sqm.
Packing One, SLAUGHTER HOUSE RD.
Min. Bid Price P1,724,905

SAM_GSC344 RSDL LOT
LA 694 sqm
(near Gen.San Cockpit Arena)
National Highway, BO. OF APUPONG
Min. Bid Price:P648,890

SAM_GSC345 HOUSE & LOT
LA 389 sqm FA 161 sqm
(near Notre Dame College)
Balagtas Street, BO. DADIANGAS
Min. Bid Price:P1,155,967

SAM_GSC346 HOUSE & LOT
LA. 425 sqm.
Dalandan St., w/n DADIANGAS HTS.
Min. Bid Price: P745,035

SAM_GSC348 HOUSE & LOT
LA 451 sqm FA 248 sqm
(meters away from Desmark Motors)
ROXAS ST.(near SSS)
Min. Bid Price: P7,291,373

SAM_GSC350 RSDL LOT W/ IMPV'T
LA 3,303 sqm FA.830 sqm.
(nea Medoz Pension Jazz House)
MORALES SUBD., Bo. Lagao
Min. Bid Price:P4,138,501

SAM_GSC351 HOUSE & LOT
LA 645 sqm FA 194 sqm
ROSAS ST.
Min. Bid Price:P2,768,875

SAM_GSC352 HOUSE & LOT
LA 476 sqm FA 122 sqm
(near Alphine Subd.)
AVILA SUBD. Brgy. San Isidro,Lagao
Min. Bid Price:P 641,296

SAM_GSC353 AGRI LOT
LA 76,229 sqm(Near St. Peter Chapel)
Lanton. BO. OF SINAWAL
Min. Bid Price: P10,270,031

SAM_GSC355 INDS'L LOT
LA 19,663 sqm.
(near MGTK Fishing Industry)
BO. OF TAMBLER
Min. Bid Price:P7,186,827

SAM_GSC356 HOUSE & LOT
LA.598 sqm FA 220 sqm.
(near Eduard Cocolumber)
Purok San Vicente ESPINA,
Min. Bid Price:P805,662

SAM_GSC358 IND'L LOT
LA 20,000 sqm.
BO. OF TAMBLER
Min. Bid Price:P4,250,000

SAM_GSC359 RSD'L LOT
LA 400 sqm(Near Holy Cross Parish)
CATAPANG HTS. SUBD.,
Brgy. Calumpang
Min. Bid Price:P340,000

SAM_GSC361 HOUCE & LOT
LA 302 sqm FA 70 sqm.
Mangustan St. BRGY. DADIANGAS NORTH
Min. Bid Price: P1,220,618

SAM_GSC365 SUBD. LOTS w/ IMPRVT
LA 6, 585 sqm FA 1,700 sqm
(Near Iglesia Ni Cristo)
CELCARY SUBD. Brgy. Bula
Min. Bid Price P1[illegible],078,190

SAM_GSC366 RSDL APARTMENT
LA 189 sqm FA 123 sqm
PUROK BAGONG SILANG Labangal
Min. Bid Price: P422,875

SAM_GSC367 WHOLE SUBD. W/O DEVELOPMENT
SERRAMAR EXEC. HOMES, Conel Rd Lagao, (near w/n Brgy. Makar)

Lot Area	Min. Bid Price
4,801 sqm. (5 lots)	P 2,040,000
68, 441 sqm. (5 lots)	P 29,087,425
97,474 sqm.(4 lots)	P 41,246,000

SAM_GSC370 HOUSE & LOT
LA 604 sqm FA 272 sqm
Mangustan Street,
BRGY. DADIANGAS NORTH
Min. Bid Price: P1,882,240

SAM_GSC373 AGRI LOT
LA 11,694 sqm. (Near Shnneville Subd)
Farm Road, BRGY. LAGAO
Min. Bid Price:P2,981,970

SAM_GSC466 IND'L LOT
LA. 16,248 sqm.
NAT'L HIGHWAY CALUMPANG,
Brgy. Makar
Min. Bid Price: P41,883,560

SAM_GSC467 IND'L LOT
LA. 13,544 sqm.
Makar-Siguil Rd.New Bohol,CALUMPANG
Min. Bid Price: P18,650,088

SAM_GSC468 COMM'L LOT
LA. 208,346 sqm.
Bo. Lamcanal,MALANDAG
Min. Bid Price: P7,039,163

KIDAPAWAN
Text 09157470332

SAM_KID374 AGRI LOT
LA 12,474 sqm
BRGY. PACO Kidapawan
Min. Bid Price: P1,060,290

MISAMIS
Text 09217388885

SAM_MIS468 HOUSE & LOT
LA 11,378 sqm FA 238 sqm
ALUBIJID, Misamis Oriental
Min. Bid Price: P1,634,260

NORTH COTOBATO
Text 09157470332

SAM_NCT376 AGRI LOT
LA 49, 538 sqm
National Rd.. Brgy. Manubuan, MATALAM
Min. Bid Price:P3,825,000

SAM_NCT377 RSDL LOT W/ PIGGERY
LA 15,000 sqm FA 1,320 sqm
Brgy. Katidtuan, KABACAN
Min. Bid Price: 2,550,000

SOUTH COTABATO
Text 09157470332

SAM_SCT378 INDS'L LOT W/ MOTORPOOL
LA 3,000 sqm FA 330 sqm
LIGTAS VILLAGE, Cannery Rd.,
Polomok(near Tropiland Pawnshop)
Min. Bid Price: P2,550,000

SAM_SCT380 RSD'L LOT
LA 1,064 sqm(near Sto.Nino Parish)
M. ROXAS BLVD. EXT.,
Poblacion, Sto. Niño
Min. Bid Price:P904,400

SAM_SCT381 AGRI LOT
LA 8, 640 sqm
STO. NINO
Min. Bid Price: P1,468,800

SAM_SCT382 RSD'L LOT
LA 13, 477 sqm(near Sto.Nino Nat'l Town Hall) POB. STO. NINO
Min. Bid Price: P5,727,725

SAM_SCT383 HOUSE & LOT
LA 1,651 sqm FA 278 sqm
Bonifacio St., POB. NORALA
Min. Bid Price:P817,696

SAM_SCT384 HOUSE & LOT
LA 22, 687 sqm FA 176 sqm
(near Bonzo Ricemill)
Bo. Simsiman. POBLACION NORALA
Min. Bid Price: P9,641,975

SAM_SCT385 HOUSE & LOT
LA 340 sqm FA 145 sqm
POBLACION NORALA
Min. Bid Price: P 336,786

SAM_SCT386 RSDL LOT W/ WAREHOUSE
LA 2, 581 sqm
POBLACION STO. NINO
Min. Bid Price: 2,193,850

SAM_SCT387 HOUSE & LOT
LA 798 sqm
Rosal St. Brgy. POB. SURALLAH,
Min. Bid Price:831,260

SAM_SCT470 RSD'L LOT
Barrio 8, KORONADAL

LA	Min. Bid Price
2,128 sqm.	P 904,400
2,701 sqm.	P1,377,425

SAM_SCT471 RSD'L LOT
LA 1,050 sqm.(near Agan Subd.)
Amurao, KORONADAL
Min. Bid Price:P446,250

SAM_SCT472 HOUSE & LOT
LA 409 sqm FA 101 sqm
(near Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital)
H. DEPITA SUBD.., Koronadal
Min. Bid Price: P521,475

SAM_SCT473 RSD'L LOT
LA 3, 241 sqm
Barrio 8, KORONADAL
Min. Bid Price:P1,377,425

SAM_SCT474 HOUSE & LOT
LA. 1,073 sqm. FA. 170 sqm.
PUROK SAMPAGUITA Pob.Sto. Nino
Min. Bid Price: P4,560,250

SULTAN KUDARAT
Text 09157470332

SAM_SUL396 COMM'L LOT
LA 225 sqm(near Metrobank Tacurong)
NATIONAL H-WAY, Pob. Tacurong
Min. Bid Price: P1,147,500

SAM_SUL397 RSDL LOT
LA 2, 642 sqm.(near Metrobank)
BO. DANSULI, Isulan
Min. Bid Price: P2,245,700

SAM_SUL398 AGRI LOT
LA 1,128 sqm.(near Faustina Chapel)
BO. KALAWAG 1 EXT., Isulan,
Min. Bid Price:P 242,520

SAM_SUL399 HOUSE & LOT
LA 1,000 sqm. FA 107 sqm
Buencamino cor. Tiongco Sts.
BO. KALWAG 1 Isulan
Min. Bid Price: P1,347,250

SAM_SUL400 2 STRY COMM'L BLDG.
LA 750 sqm FA 533 sqm
QUIRINO AVE..,Poblacion, Tacurong City
Min. Bid Price:P5,052,227

SAM_SUL401 HOUSE & LOT
Molave cor. Flores Sts.
(near Esperanza Mun. High Sch.)

Lot Area	Flr Area	Min Bid Price
423sqm	370sqm	P 1,797,750
405sqm	163sqm	P 3,442,500

SAM_SUL402 AGRI LOT
LA 10,161 sqm
(infront of Ezperanza High Schl.)
Molave Ext., POBLACION, Esperanza
Min. Bid Price:P1,368,951

SAM_SUL403 RSDL BLDG
LA 607 sqm FA 114 sqm
Dona Sts. POB. ESPERANZA
Min. Bid Price:P998,320

SAM_SUL406 HOUSE & LOT
LA 494 sqm FA 148 sqm
(near RCBC Isulan) Along Municipal Rd.
KALAWAG III, Isulan,
Min. Bid Price: P4,199,000

TAGUM
Text 09267666746

SAM_TGM411 AGRI LOT
LA 4, 328 sqm
(Near Univ. of Southeastern Phil.)
Brgy. Apokon, PUROK V
Min. Bid Price:P1,839,400

SAM_TGM415 INDS'L LOT
LA 6,000 sqm
(Near San Vicente Ferrer Chapel)
APOKON
Min. Bid Price:P4,080,000

SAM_TGM423 RSD'L BLDG.
LA 225 sqm FA 172 sqm
(Near Queen of Apostle Seminary)
Prk. Sampaguita Rd. 1.
MAGUGPO WEST
Min. Bid Price:P478,125

SAM_TGM428 AGRI RICEMILL
LA 1, 757 sqm.
PUROK PAG-ASA, Pagsabangan.
Min. Bid Price:P1,493,450

SAM_TGM429 2STRY HOUSE & LOT
LA 600 sqm. FA 240 sqm.
PUROK PAG-ASA, Pagsabangan,
Min. Bid Price:P1,493,450

SAM_TGM431 AGRI RAW LAND
LA 23, 441 sqm.(near UMTagum Coll.)
VISAYAN VILLAGE
Min. Bid Price:P6,973,698

SAM_TGM434 HOUSE & LOT
LA 181 sqm FA 38 sqm.
(Near Apokon Brgy. Hall)
GEMINI VILLAGE, Apokon
Min. Bid Price:P265,750

SAM_TGM436 HOUSE & LOT
LA 1,000 sqm
MEL VILLAGE, Brgy. Visayan Village
Min. Bid Price:P2,407,554

SAM_TGM437 COMM'L LOT
Quirante II St. PRK. LAPU-LAPU,
Magugpo(near JVC,back of JS Gaisano)

Lot Area	Min. Bid Price
3,001 sqm.	P 25,508,500
1,846 sqm	P 6,095,500

SAM_TGM439 RSDL LOT
LA 450 sqm(Near Methodist Church)
PAGSABANGAN
Min. Bid Price: P573,750

SAM_TGM440 RSD'L LOT
LA 3,000 sqm
(New Life Ministryes Chapel)
PUROK ORANGE VALLEY,
Magugpo South,
Min. Bid Price: P6,375,000

SAM_TGM449 RSD'L LOT
LA 556 sqm.
(meters away from Dalisay Gante Rd.)
PUROK VIPAIL
Min. Bid Price:P378,080

SAM_TGM450 RSD'L/COMM'L BLDG
LA 379 sqm FA 514 sqm
SOBRECAREY ST.
Min. Bid Price P5,106,117

SAM_TGM455 HOUSE & LOT
LA 7, 456 sqm FA 106 sqm
(near YBC Store)
DOMINGO SUBD., Magugpo Poblacion
Min. Bid Price: P6,337,600

SAM_TGM456 AGRI LOT
LA 3, 827 sqm
(Near Nichols Homes Subd.)
Purok Bull, VISAYAN VILL.
Min. Bid Price: P1,301,180

SAM_TGM460 RSDL LOT
LA 477 sqm.(near DANECO Office)
Briz District, MAGUGPO EAST,
Min. Bid Price:P1,013,625

SAM_TGM463 RSD'L LOT
LA 300 sqm (near Magsanoc Vil.)
PUROK ABACA, Brgy. Mankilam
Min. Bid Price:P382,500

SAM_TGM464 RSD'L LOT
LA 250 sqm.
(Near Phil. Benovolent Missionary)
SENAGOTE VILL., Magugpo East,
Min. Bid Price:P531,250

SAM_TGM469 HOUSE & LOT
LA 259 sqm FA 141 sqm
(Near Brgy. Hall w/n Gemini Village)
GEMINI VILL.,Brgy. Apokon
Min. Bid Price:P405,750

SAM_TGM470 COMM'L BLDG
LA 18, 630 sqm FA 2, 117 sqm
(near First Consolidated Bank)
PAGSABANGAN RD., Brgy. Mankilam.
Min. Bid Price: P22,609,659

SAM_TGM476 HOUSE & LOT
LA. 400 sqm. FA. 315 sqm.
(near Visayan Elem. Sch.)
Purok Palmera, VISAYAN VILLAGE
Min. Bid Price:P1,277,203

SAM_TGM477 HOUSE & LOT
Purok Palmera, VISAYAN VILLAGE
(near Visayan Elem. Sch.)

Lot Area	Flr Area	Min. Bid Price
750sqm	400sqm	P 1,616,713
1,066sqm	192sqm	P 2,265,250
1,406sqm	400sqm	P 2,987,750

SAM_TGM481 RSD'L LOT
VISAYAN VILLAGE (near Visayan Elem. Sch.)

Lot Area	Min. Bid Price
4,500 sqm	P 9,562,500
1,236 sqm.	P 2,626,500
1,512 sqm.	P 3,213,000
1,648sqm	P 3,502,000
2,338 sqm.	P 4,968,250
7,014sqm.	P 5,961,900

SAM_TGM482 AGRI LOT
LA 12, 580 sqm.
(near Clausio Inse,Sicat Cockpit Arena)
BRGY. CANOCOTAN
Min. Bid Price:P2,138,600

SAM_TGM484 RSD'L LOT
LA 400 sqm
(meters away from Christ the King Chapel) Suaybaguio Road,
BRGY. LA FORTUNA
Min. Bid Price:P431,123

SAM_TGM492 RSDL LOT
LA 2, 119 sqm.
Purok Malinawon, MAGUGPO EAST,
Min. Bid Price: P4,502,875

SAM_TGM493 AGRI LOT
LA. 62,900 sqm.
BRGY. CANOCOTAN (San Isidro)
(near Sicat Cockpit Arena)
Min. Bid Price:P21,386,000

SAM_TGM495 12 RSD'L LOTS
LA 15,610 sqm
Purok Cacao, VISAYAN VILLAGE
Min. Bid Price: P6,634,250

SAM_TGM497 RSDL LOT W/ IMPV'T
LA 24, 022 sqm FA 1, 062 sqm.
Tagum-Kapalong, Provincial Rd.,
BRGY. PAGSABANGAN
Min. Bid Price: P20,418,700

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A leader's way

From page B4

ment.

In Dr. Cloud's opinion, living in accordance with fairness will destroy every relationship in life. With everyone keeping score of favors bestowed and received, eventually someone will feel victimized when a good deed goes unreturned.

As a leader, I've learned the high road is the only road to travel on. Don't treat others according to what they deserve; treat them even better than you would prefer to be treated. By doing so, you'll keep integrity and avoid sticky accusations or petty arguments.

Principle 8: Be Humble

"Pride is concerned with who is right. Humility is concerned with what is right." -Ezra Taft Benson

In Dr. Cloud's estimation, successful people have a healthy dose of humility. Humility has an internal and external component. Internally, humility comes when we admit our errors, and open ourselves to instruction. Externally, humility is gained when we show patience for the faults of others, and when we are quick to shine the spotlight on the successes of others.

Principle 9: Upset the Right People

A person's success will always be inhibited if he or she tries to please all of the people all of the time. I like how Dr. Cloud explains the principle of upsetting the right people:

Do not try to avoid upsetting people; just make sure that you are upsetting the right ones. If the kind, loving, responsible and honest people are upset with you, then you had better look at the choices you are making. But if the controlling, hot and cold, irresponsible or manipulative people are upset with you, then take courage!

Be likeable and be gracious, but don't sacrifice your identity or values for the sake of harmony.

Review: 9 Things You Simply Must Do for Success

Principle No. 1 – Dig It Up

Principle No. 2 – Pull the Tooth

Principle No. 3 – Play the Movie

Principle No. 4 – Do Something

Principle No. 5 – Act Like an Ant

Principle No. 6 – Hate Well

Principle No. 7 – Don't Play Fair

Principle No. 8 – Be Humble

Principle No. 9 – Upset the Right People

(For information on John Maxwell 's in-house or public leadership or teamwork workshops, please email us at bingericta@gmail.com or call 813-2049/2732 and ask for Bing. Text MAXWELL ON to 4632 (Smart) to get daily SMS leadership insights from John Maxwell.)

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9 things you must do

A LEADER'S WAY

John C. Maxwell

OPRAH WINFREY AND Anderson Cooper are two of the most popular media personalities in America. Yet, their backgrounds could hardly be more dissimilar.

Oprah was born to unmarried teenage parents in rural Mississippi. Anderson's mother was fashionable railroad heiress, Gloria Vanderbilt, and his father was a successful writer/editor in Manhattan.

Oprah grew up in poverty, spending her childhood in the inner-city ghettoes of Milwaukee. Anderson was born into wealth. He appeared with his mom on The Tonight Show when he was three, and he modeled for Calvin Klein, Ralph Lauren and Macy's as a child.

Yet, for all of their differences (background, race and gender), Oprah Winfrey and Anderson Cooper have unmistakable similarities. At some level, they resemble each other. They have an aura of success that identifies one with the other.

What is it about successful people, like Oprah and Anderson Cooper, who, although completely different in background and style, are almost identical in their approach to work and life?

In his book, 9 Things You Simply Must Do to Succeed in Love and Life , Dr. Henry Cloud passes along his observations of nine principles commonly practiced by the successful people he knows. The book drips with leadership application, and I would like to take this lesson to summarize Dr. Cloud's insights.

Principle 1: Dig It Up

Each person has a treasure trove of ability inside of them. Everyone has dreams and desires lodged within their soul. Why do some people dig deep and take hold of their dreams while others let them drift away?

According to Dr. Cloud, successful people give sustained attention to what stirs within them. They find outlets for their passions. Exercising their strengths is non-negotiable.

Principle 2: Pull the Tooth

Many people I know have an irrational fear of the dentist's office. The idea of someone poking and prodding in their mouth fills them with dread. Amazingly, some people are afraid to the point where they would rather suffer discomfort day after day rather than undergo the temporary pain of a visit to the dentist.

As Dr. Cloud has observed, successful people go to the dentist. They face their fears and make the appointment. They pull the tooth that is causing the nagging ache and, by enduring the pain, they come out better on the other side.

Successful people refuse to carry their baggage through life. They confront their hurt, disappointment, and anger early, and they seek emotional freedom from life's injuries.

Principle 3: Play the Movie

Dr. Cloud recommends the exercise of playing a movie of your life in which you are the hero or heroine. What traits does your character have? What happens during the plot of the movie? Who do you starring alongside you? How does your movie inspire the people in the theater?

Most people live their life and then look at it. Do the opposite. Look at your life and then live it. Envision and step toward the future you want to experience. Don't wake up one day to realize that your life is like a B-grade movie—you don't want to leave in the middle, but you would never want to watch it again!

Principle 4: Do Something

Dr. Cloud's fourth principle is short and to the point: Successful people do something. They initiate, create and generate. Successful leaders are proactive as opposed to reactive. "They do not see themselves as victims of circumstances," Cloud writes, "But as active participants who take steps to influence outcomes." Their days and their lives are controlled by internal motivations rather than external currents.

In a similar vein, successful people take ownership for their destinations in life. They don't assign blame; they welcome responsibility.

They refuse to cede their freedom to others and live dependently. The successful person has done leadership's toughest task—mastered the art of self-leadership. The benefit of leading yourself well is that you don't have to rely on others to provide direction for your life. You get to plan the course.

Principle 5: Act Like An Ant

"Go to the ant, you sluggard; Consider its ways and be wise! It has no commander, No over seer or ruler, Yet it stores its provisions in summer, And gathers its food at the harvest."—Proverbs 6:6-8

Dr. Cloud points to the ant to develop another principle of success. Three lessons stand out from the metaphor of the ant. First, they appreciate the ethic of hard work. Their lives are a flurry of constant activity as they tirelessly search for food. Second, ants refuse to give up. They never abandon the hunt, crawling through cracks and crevices in their pursuit of a morsel. Third, ants understand the value of compounding. Grain by grain an ant builds the hill that becomes its home, and crumb by crumb they accumulate storehouses of food.

Principle 6: Hate Well

In his writing, Dr. Cloud talks about focusing feelings of anger constructively to solve problems or end injustice. As he develops his idea of "hating well," he distinguishes between subjective hate and objective hate.

Subjective hate is toxic. Dr. Cloud describes it as, "a pool of feelings and attitudes that resides in our soul, waiting for expression. It is not directed at anything specific or caused on any given day by any specific object. It is already there, sort of like an infection of the soul." Subjective hate poisons and corrupts the person who houses it.

On the contrary, objective hate can be described as anger with a purpose. Objective hate protects by standing in opposition to dishonesty, exploitation, or deceit. Objective hate may spark entrepreneurship. In fact, many successful businesses have begun as a result of the founder's hatred of poor service or shoddy quality.

Principle 7: Don't Play Fair

Fairness says "an eye for an eye," or "a tooth for a tooth." Fairness weighs all actions in a balance and continuously moves to equilibrium. The rule of fairness means good actions deserve kind responses, and bad behavior deserves punish-

A LEADER'S WAY/B3

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Everybody Say 'WAHO!'

"After the house chores, mom now has a better paying job to attend to."

How PLDT Equips Call Center Agents Who Work at Home

By Billy Bob Chua

With a shrinking labor pool to draw on, more and more call centers are looking elsewhere for viable talent. And where are they finding it? Surprisingly, it's right at the very homes where these future agents live.

It's an idea that has thankfully come for both business owners and a growing force of potential employees who otherwise do not fit into the traditional call center set up. PLDT WAHO (Work at Home) now enables this untapped labor force. These may include housewives, students, part-timers, a few Mr. Moms, and even the handicapped.

Guaranteed Clear and Stable Voice Quality

How reliable is it? If we're talking about technology, it's built around stable and reliable PLDT components already in place, hinged on its tried and tested network. This is a dealmaker considering most call center agents are averse to risking their precious operations on something untried or untested. No such worries here.

Here's PLDT's unmatched guarantee: they ensure that secure links between agents and call center headquarters delivers absolutely clear voice quality. PLDT goes above and beyond normal standards for these connections by endorsing the service to the customer if and only when stringent test parameters are met, satisfying call center quality standards.

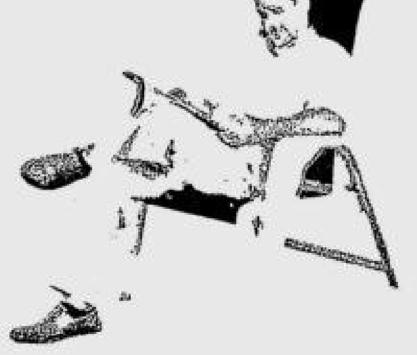
No One Else But PLDT WAHO

WAHO is a simple but powerful solution for call center Human Resource issues today: high turnover, burnout, and staff piracy. No other service provider does the same or guarantees the same quality.

A call center can easily operate with a complementary force of agents working from their homes. Whether you're just starting out operating a call center or a long-established multinational, there are several flexible WAHO plans to choose from to bolster this "buffer force".

"The argument for call center agents who work at home is really very simple and compelling for business owners," says Eric R. Alberto, SVP for PLDT's Corporate Business Group. "Aside from saving on rent, office supplies, electricity and other utilities, WAHO enables them to recruit and keep their choice of agents coming from an entirely new sector." And with all the drain and burnout occurring in the traditional agent pool, PLDT WAHO could be the most welcome breath of fresh air yet in the call center industry.

With PLDT WAHO more people are getting to work without going to work.



The Elderly and Retired

It's easy to underestimate older folks, but many of them have invaluable experience and patience behind them. Some call center managers could call this the Golden Resource as they would be perfect for customer service, posessing longer fuses and wise, sagely advice. WAHO gives grandpas and grandmas welcome new opportunities to be active and productive again. The call center that uses WAHO could be their answer at last.

The Handicapped

Perhaps most dramatically, WAHO enables call centers to now employ even more people with disabilities. Usually it's quite troublesome for the handicapped to even get to work, and in such a case employers would have to make special provisions for their needs at the workplace. WAHO eliminates these twin problems, empowers the handicapped to work competently in the comfort of their home, and unlocks a brand new labor force for call center owners-- a labor force that may be physically impaired but nonetheless mentally adept.

Housewives and Homemakers

Keeping the house in order is sometimes called a thankless job and certainly an unpaid one for many spouses left at home. But after the dishes and laundry have been done, Moms and even some Mr. Moms have more than a few idle hours. With WAHO employers have found yet another new segment of the labor force to tap. With all the energy and verve to keep the house in tip-top shape, homemakers will only be too glad to make those idle hours more productive, all to the call center manager's benefit. Even better, this new job pays for a once "thankless" job, and it pays well.

IN THIS ISSUE
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- **Sea Princess** lets her hair down /E4

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LIFESTYLE GOES TO CAVITE

Crucible of Philippine history

Culture and history are inextricably linked in the province. One may have gone but the other remains

BONIFACIO Trial House in Maragondon

GENERAL Emilio Aguinaldo Shrine in Kawit

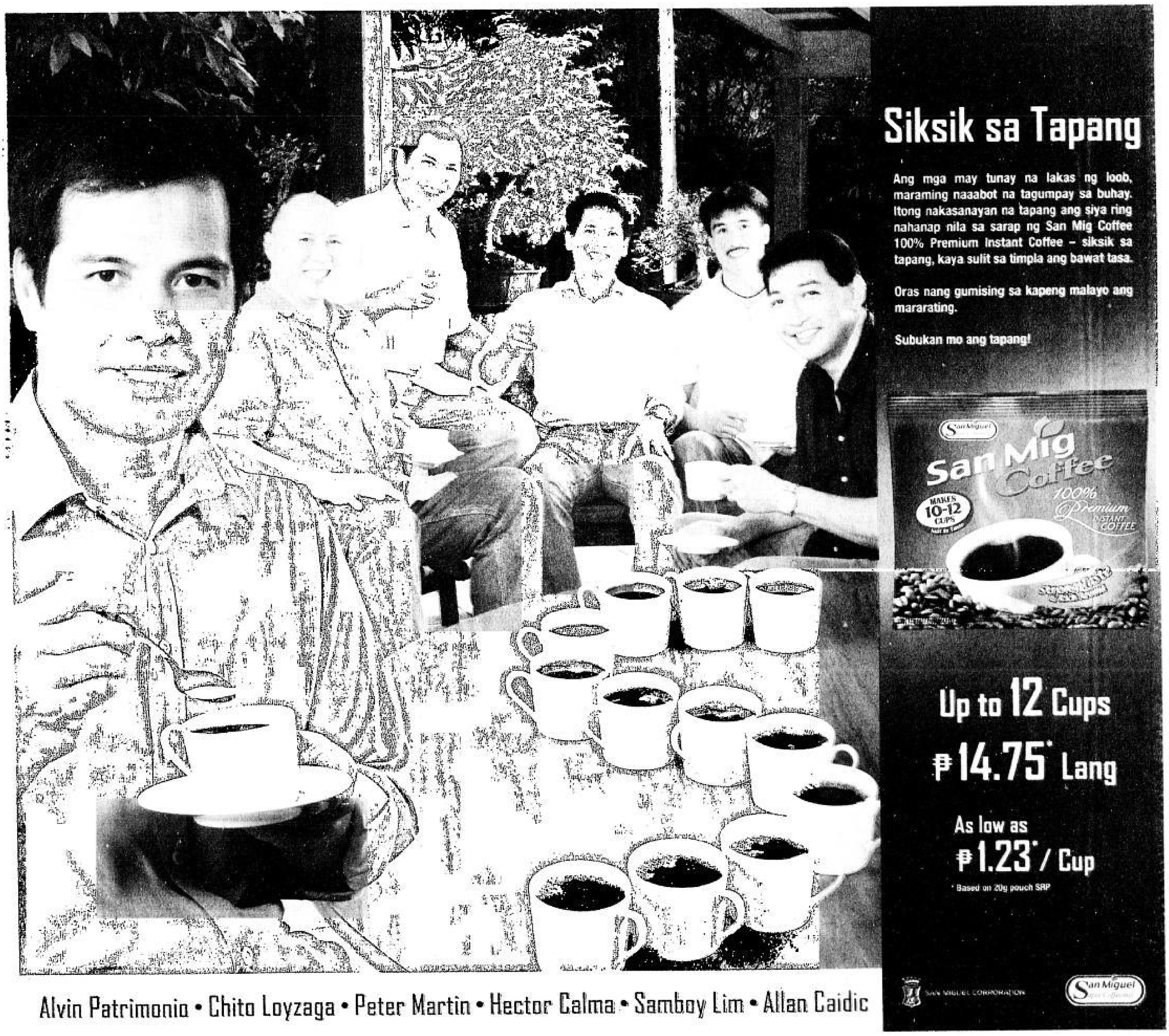
Text by Constantino C. Tejero
Photos by Roger Carpio

EVERY FILIPINO schoolchild worth the Panatang Makabayan must have been familiar with the name from Social Studies textbooks. It can even be found as one of the eight rays of the sun on the flag.

Cavite had been a hotbed of those mutinies and uprisings that led to the 1896 Revolution against Spain, and a crucible of those internal struggles and political machinations that culminated in the declaration of Philippine Independence on June 12, 1898.

About half a century after those momentous events, it again played a key role in Philippine history—as Corregidor, the largest of five islands guarding the entrance of Manila Bay, became the last stronghold of the Allied Forces to fall into the hands of the Japanese Imperial Army.

CRUCIBLE/ C2



Siksik sa Tapang

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Reaping the benefits of foresight

The SM mall presence in Cavite marks its 10th year with new plans of expansion

SM CITY Dasmariñas' activity center

By Alex Y. Vergara

WHILE A NUMBER OF business establishments have of late been setting up shop in Cavite, SM Supermalls saw the province's potentials as early as a decade ago.

In fact, if we're to factor in the research and planning that went into the construction and opening of SM City Bacoor on July 25, 1997, the SM group did its homework much, much earlier.

For its pioneering efforts, the country's leading mall chain has been handsomely reaping the fruits of its labor. As part of the so-called Mega Manila area, Cavite today is experiencing an unprecedented economic expansion, brought about in no small way by an influx of people from Metro Manila and other parts of the country.

From a quiet agricultural town less than a generation ago, Bacoor and nearby towns now play hosts to hundreds of exclusive villages and subdivisions catering to Filipinos from all walks of life.

As such, like a magnet, Cavite has drawn all sorts of businesses—from mall chains to schools, restaurants to convenience stores. And at the forefront of these dizzying developments is SM Supermalls.

After opening SM City Bacoor—considered the first "large" mall of its kind in Cavite—the company made a strong follow-up several years later with the opening of SM City Dasmariñas.

SM Supermalls further affirmed its belief in Cavite's growth potential by recently opening SM Supercenter Molino, the third mall in Cavite and the second in Bacoor.

Not 'cannibalism'

With two malls in one town, it would seem like outlets for the same retail chains would find themselves directly competing with one another. This, however, isn't the case in Bacoor, where there are close to 190 subdivisions in Barangay Molino alone.

Apart from tried-and-test approaches and features culled from older SM malls, SM Supercenter Molino is strategically located along or near major thoroughfares leading to such growth areas as Molino, Paliparan, Imus, Las Piñas and even Alabang via the newly opened Daang Hari.

Indeed, this has been the same formula that has fueled SM Bacoor's earlier success. On top of its central location (at the intersection of Aguinaldo and Tirona Highways), the mall is the nearest establishment of its kind in Cavite to cater to folks coming from Metro Manila.

Like SM Molino, it also attracts a cross-section of people from other municipalities such as Kawit, Imus, Tanza, Noveleta, Rosario and Cavite City.

"Modesty aside, we no longer compare ourselves with our competitors and instead engage in a friendly competition among ourselves," says Sulamagne Maglanoc, mall manager of SM City Bacoor.

She and her team are now busy thinking of new ways to cater to the needs of hundreds of call-center agents, with the coming opening of TeleTech on the fourth level, long after traditional stores inside the Bacoor mall have closed.

SM CITY Dasmariñas

The American company, with 10 offices nationwide, is the first business outsourcing and customer management solutions center in Bacoor. Once fully operational, TeleTech Bacoor plans to employ up to 2,000 people, mostly from Bacoor.

"They saw the province, with its numerous schools, as a rich source of educated manpower," says Maglanoc. "Why go far when the source is right here in Cavite, particularly Bacoor?"

Speaking of customers, despite their proximity to each other, there are variances in each of the mall's markets.

A major bulk of their customers, of course, consists of families of OFWs. But while SM City Bacoor attracts a bigger share of Bacoor's original inhabitants and those that pass by from Metro Manila on their way to other towns in Cavite, SM City Dasmariñas attracts a bigger student population courtesy of nearby colleges and universities in the area.

In recent years, the mall has also become the shopping venue of choice of not a few foreigners, particularly Koreans, says SM City Dasmariñas' mall manager, Tricia Martinez.

Cavite's Animal Farm

ANGLO-NUBIAN and Boer goats sun themselves on the sloping meadow.

PHOTOS BY ROGER CARPIO

Cavite's Animal Farm

CAVITE HAS LONG BEEN FAMOUS for its luscious fruits and extra-strong coffee (the *barako*, or Liberica variety). Orchards and plantations are a common sight in the landscape, but not this one.

Paradizoo, sprawling on a 10-ha sloping tract in Mendez Nuñez town less than two hours' drive from Manila, is a combination farm and zoo. Set up as a hobby by Robert Yupangco over a year ago, it has developed into a theme farm and been recently opened to the public.

This is an unusual place where visitors not only can ride camels and mini horses but also feed the deer and alpacas, shear the sheep, milk the goats, watch the honeybees store nectar, harvest fruits and vegetables, buy whatever they need for their own farms from organic herbicide to forage seeds to breeder ostrich.

"We want guests to relax," says farm manager Vito Logan, "to de-stress from the noise and pollution of the city, to experience and feel what farm life is."

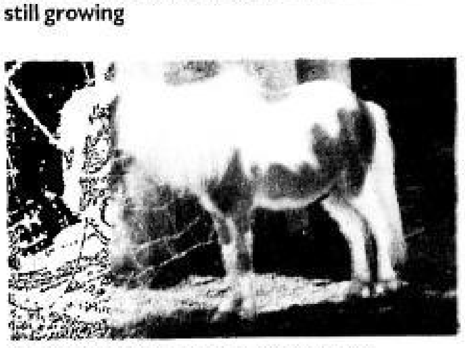
Yupangco has two other such theme places—Residence Inn in Tagaytay and Zoobic Safari in, well, Subic—but Paradizoo is different in that there is more interactive activities here as most of its animals are of the domesticated kind though of rare varieties.

A llama rubs necks with eight alpacas in a fenced lot. Seven varieties of goat (Saanen, Boer, Kalahari, Feral, Kiko or Toggen, Upgrade and Anglo-Nubian); four of sheep (Merino, Damara, Meat Master and Kataholin); and three of deer (Follow, Russa and native) graze on the same meadow.

The goats and sheep have a long shed with elevated flooring where they are herded into corrals according to varieties at the end of the day. The flooring is of slats through which dung drops to the ground and is gathered weekly for composting.

LLAMA and alpaca in a photo op with farm manager Vito Logan

SAANEN goat, four years old and 4-ft horns still growing


MINIATURE horse looks woebegone.

DROMEDARY petted by chief animal keeper Romy Martirez

Adorable pets

There are also 13 ostriches in an enclosure; and five dromedaries, those one-humped camels trained for riding.

"They have already adapted to the climate," says chief animal keeper Romy Martirez, referring to the animals' Arabian and African origins and their acclimatizing to our monsoon weather.

Among the most popular to visitors are a freak, a five-legged cattle named Bull-Tez-Five; and the nine miniature horses, about three feet tall and ideal for riding for children, the aged and the disabled.

In all, the place contains about 1,300 animals, including native horses and pigs, wild pigs and Vietnamese pigs, carabaos and Murrah buffaloes, ducks and geese, peafowls and guinea hens, turkeys and jungle fowls, quails and layer chicken, fighting cocks, pit bulls and Labradors.

This is no ordinary zoo, however, as these animals are up for sale. In fact, it could be one of the few sources in the country for hobbyists and commercial raisers to get their favored breeds and rare pets.

Hobbyists who fancy a mini horse should be ready to shell out P300,000 for an adult (as compared to a native horse at P15,000). The same goes for an alpaca. Then one must be a really hardcore hobbyist to want a pet camel for half a million pesos.

Breeders can get Boer and Kalahari goats for P40,000 an adult. The ostrich is a little pricier at P50,000, but if you're into great savings, you can have a 1.5-kg hatching egg for P2,500.

Organic farming

Lest one forget, this is a farm, with some 5,000 vegetables all organically grown, and fruit-bearing trees and flowers, too. Plants and produce are also for sale.

The farm is run by 34 workers, including tour guides. Logan says his staff is divided into three teams: the animal keepers; the tenders of vegetables, fruit trees

CAVITE'S/ C4

Crucible of Phili

From page C1

Today its towns are scattered with historical landmarks, including memorial shrines, monuments, markers, plazas and museums. It's been commonplace for visitors in the province to unwittingly step on a patch of soil where some historical personage once trod or had fallen.

The most renowned of these, of course, is the Aguinaldo Shrine in Kawit, as every year it is put in the spotlight during the Independence Day celebration. It was in this ancestral house of Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo, on the balcony, that he proclaimed our independence against Spain. Turned into a museum in the 1960s, the mansion has a bowling alley.

Also in Kawit is the Battle of Binakayan Monument, site of a crucial battle between Spanish soldiers and Filipino revolutionaries, which is considered "one of the shining moments of the Philippine struggle for independence."

Bonifacio memorials

In a battle in Imus, at the site of what is now Alapan I Elementary School, was where the Philippine flag was first unfurled by the revolutionaries. This has been duly commemorated with the Battle of Alapan Marker and Flag, featuring a 90-ft tall flagpole and the statue of Mother Philippines standing on three boulders and waving the flag.

In Rosario is the Tejeros Convention Site, where the revolutionaries approved the establishment of a revolutionary government headed by Aguinaldo.

In Gen. Trias town can be found a Spanish-style house with façade of red brick and adobe. This was once the residence of Andres Bonifacio, founder of Katipunan and Aguinaldo's erstwhile comrade and later political rival.

Although not a native Caviteño and a mortal enemy of Cavite's son Aguinaldo, Bonifacio has several memorials in the province as it was here where he was tried and executed. These include the Bonifacio Trial House in Maragondon, where he and his brother Procopio was tried by a military court; and the Gat Andres Bonifacio Memorial Shrine, also in Maragondon, where the brothers were executed on May 10, 1897.

The most numerous of these historical landmarks can be found in Cavite City, among them the Don Ladislao Diwa Shrine, formerly the ancestral house of the Katipunan co-founder; the Julian Felipe Monument, built to the composer of the National Anthem; Corregidor, a vital combat zone during World War II; Fort San Felipe, now the Philippine Navy compound, where the 1872 mutiny occurred and the 13 Martyrs of Cavite were executed: the XIII Martyrs Centennial Plaza, a monument to those martyrs the remains of six of whom have been interred here.

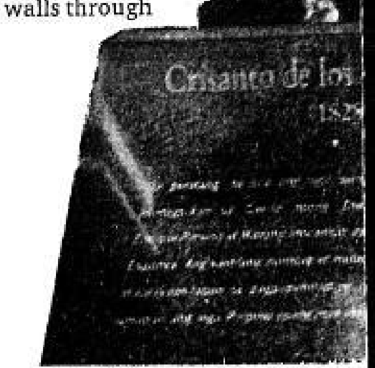
CEILING fresco and *retablos* in San Francisco de Malabon Church

Veritable treasure-trove

Another monument to the Cavite Mutiny can be found in front of the GBR (Geronimo Berenguer de los Reyes Jr.) Museum at Gateway Business Park in Gen. Trias. Aside from its heroic statuary, the granite memorial has engraved on its wall the names of the 154 Filipinos involved in that event.

The GBR Museum itself is a treasure-trove of history as it houses over 3,000 vintage paintings and antiquarian photographs dating to the 1880s, including an authentic blown-up photo of the execution of National Hero José Rizal in Bagumbayan on Dec. 30, 1896.

Mounted on walls through



GRANITE memorial of the Cavite

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

SM CITY Bacoor

SM SUPERCENTER Molino

PHOTOS BY RUDY ESPERAS

asmariñas also hosts several ish-language schools catering reans," she explains. "That's we're actively looking for ten- from restaurants to groceries, will cater to their needs."

e mall's supermarket is also pring the possibility of ex- ing its international foods on.

erent architecture

e mall is also one of several stablishments to break free the box-like architecture that quite popular before. Thus, its high ceiling and abundant f skylight via a series of story windows, SM City Das- ñas appears more laid-back bigger than it actually is.

the better since the mall, be- he remotest of all three SM erties in Cavite, has become a st destination of sorts. It has become a haven for retirees, e needs are a bit different younger customers.

ur stairs, escalators, walk- and elevators have been de- d to better cater to the special s of senior citizens and the bled," says Martinez.

e mall also has such building ities as a wheelchair lift, ac- ramps, and handicapped- dly restrooms and public tele- es. Its efforts were recognized SM City Dasmariñas earned the Apolinario Mabini Award for Disabled-Friendly Establishment in 2005.

At the same time, the mall has anticipated the needs of its market of first-time homeowners. Apart from Ace Hardware (a constant fixture in all three Cavite malls), SM Dasmariñas is also home to a number of furniture and home-improvement shops.

Of the three sister malls, SM Supercenter Molino happens to be the youngest, smallest and less extensive in terms of tenant mix. But it's by no means a retail lightweight.

Astounding

It may be in the category of a "community mall," but customer traffic in Molino since it opened almost two years ago has been quite astounding, says SM Supercenter Molino's assistant mall manager, Edith Ragodo, who credits this to, among other things, their being a hypermart, a supermarket and department store rolled into one.

"It has everything, from fresh fish, meat, poultry and produce to dry goods and clothes," says Ragodo, referring to SM Hypermart. "It even has an area devoted to appliances and furniture pieces. Here people can do their shopping in clean, air-conditioned surroundings and still get the feel of a wet-market concept."

TELETECH is more than just a call center, says Christine Matriano, the company's marketing director, it's a world-class business process outsourcing center.

In keeping with its "supercenter" concept, the Molino mall has added such features as a descending "walkalator" that attaches itself to specially designed shopping carts.

Although small in area, the place is definitely not short on style. Its huge atrium, for instance, comes with a high ceiling surrounded by scenic and energy-saving clerestory windows.

And like its predecessors, it also houses four Dolby-equipped cinemas exhibiting the latest films also shown in Manila.

"Although Metro Manila is still our biggest market, it's already at a stage where it has become saturated," says Richie Tan Gonzales, SM Supermalls' group brand manager of southern provinces in Luzon, including Lipa, Batangas City, Sta. Rosa and Lucena. "That's why we'll continue expanding southward with the opening next year of two SM malls in San Pablo and Calamba."

Work will soon start on SM Tagaytay as well as SM Naga.

Other provinces may slowly be opening up but the company's crown jewels in the south are still securely ensconced in Cavite.

Bacoor rocks

A MUSSEL AND OYSTER FESTIVAL, a job fair, a singing tilt, a dance extravaganza, a fashion show, a photo exhibit and a beauty contest are among the highlights of this year's first ever Bacoor Week celebrations.

Slated Sept. 23-28, the affair marks Bacoor's 336th founding anniversary as a premier town in the historic province of Cavite. The administration of Mayor Strike Revilla, in cooperation with major sponsors such as SM City Bacoor and SM Supercenter Molino, promises to stage a series of "fun-filled but memorable" events designed to instill pride and generate a sense of history among the town's burgeoning population.

Due to its proximity to Metro Manila, Bacoor is now home to thousands of non-Caviteños from all over the country. The once-quiet agricultural town has become the site of hundreds of subdivisions in recent years.

"Our primary aim is to promote people, places and events since Bacoor once played an important part in our country's history, particularly during the time of Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo," says Dominic Tolentino, the newly elected mayor's chief of staff. "In spite of our modest budget, we hope to promote historical tourism through these events."

The week will lead up to the feast day of St. Michael the Archangel, the town's patron saint, on Sept. 29. A procession will culminate in the town's Spanish-era church, a stone's throw from Bacoor's municipal hall.

And to make the affair a holistic one, the Revilla administration has tapped the participation of every barangay. The mussel and oyster festival, for instance, will be staged by villages along Bacoor's long shoreline. It promises to be an eat-all-you-can party to those craving fresh seafood.

Each barangay, of course, is being encouraged to field their best dancers and singers to join the contests. The event will also focus on the environment, a major issue in the flood-prone and densely populated town, via a fashion show featuring recyclable materials.

At the same time, Mayor Revilla will grace the blessing of several health and maternity clinics throughout the week. Bacoor Week also promises to be a family affair as the mayor's older brother, Sen. Bong Revilla, and wife Lani Mercado are slated to grace several events.

"There might be some celebrities in attendance," says Tolentino. "But we don't want to highlight the show-biz aspect alone. In fact, we want to get out of it and instead emphasize on the event's historical significance."

Tolentino also appealed to Bacoorians to participate in the activities. He also took the opportunity to challenge them to learn to help themselves and not to depend solely on government assistance.

"The government can't do it alone," he says, echoing his boss' lines. "It should be a two-way process."

For its part, both SM malls will simultaneously host the events. Although both venues plan to host the same set of activities, they will host them in different days so as not to deprive their respective markets from participating. A detailed schedule of activities will be provided by both malls.

Alex Y. Vergara

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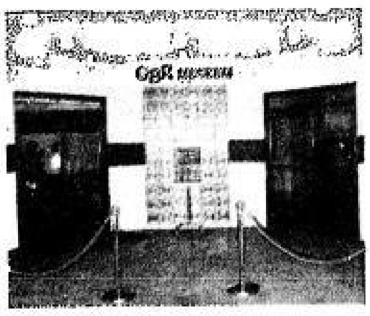
ppine history

OUR Lady of the Assumption Church, Maragondon



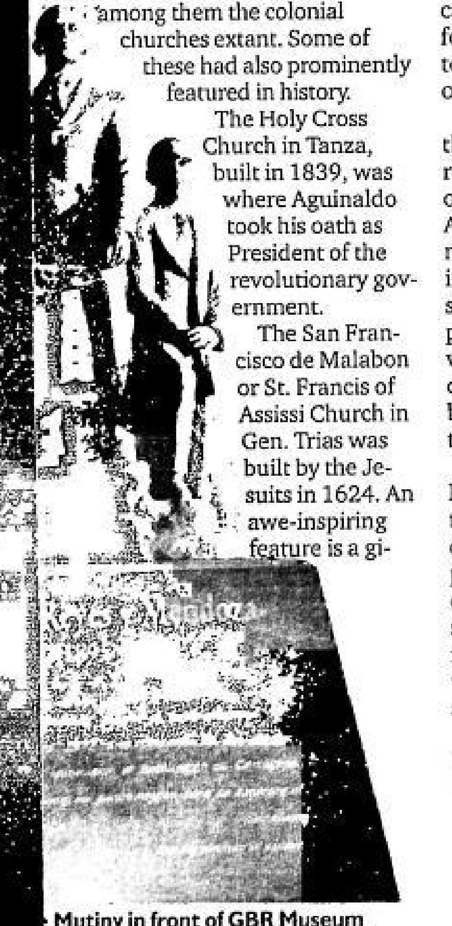
Lobby of GBR Museum, Gateway Business Park, Gen. Trias

winding corridors are very rare photos of Old Manila and environs, lifestyle pictures, scenes from the Revolution, the Spanish-American War, the Filipino-American War, World War II, the Commonwealth years, the Magsaysay years, through the martial-law years and the recent past. (These dumbfounding images should be reproduced in books and made readily accessible to students, researchers, scholars, historians.)

The province not only has those historical landmarks but cultural-heritage structures as well, among them the colonial churches extant. Some of these had also prominently featured in history.

The Holy Cross Church in Tanza, built in 1839, was where Aguinaldo took his oath as President of the revolutionary government.

The San Francisco de Malabon or St. Francis of Assissi Church in Gen. Trias was built by the Jesuits in 1624. An awe-inspiring feature is a gigantic painting on its dome depicting the Apostles receiving the Pentecostal fire. It was here where the Marcha Filipina was rehearsed before it was played at the declaration of independence.



Mutiny in front of GBR Museum

Cultural landmarks

Among the most remarkable is the Nuestra Señora de la Asuncion or Our Lady of the Assumption Church in Maragondon. Built by the Jesuits in 1618 and one of the 26 oldest churches in the country, it has been declared a National Cultural Treasure by the National Museum. It served as headquarters of Aguinaldo's forces in 1897.

This is a small quaint church with a five-story belfry of layered red brick tiles and gray river stones. Its 380-year-old door is of thick heavy slabs of *mulawin* richly carved with motifs of flowers and foliage, cypress, galleon, fortress towers, a hand holding up a cluster of grapes.

Inside, sunlight streamed in through windows of stained-glass rectangles, squares and triangles of primary and secondary colors. At the altar, 14 *retablos* and the niche of the Sacrament are ablaze in gold, red and lapis lazuli. On a side wall is an ornately carved pulpit in polychrome hardwood, while running the length of three of the seven dark-brown cross-beams above are Latin inscriptions in white.

But as with most of our cultural landmarks, human greed and ineptitude also took their toll on this one. All but one of its original paintings depicting the 14 Stations of the Cross were stolen. They have since been replaced by high-relief images in polychrome wood, and the remaining painting stored for safekeeping.

The walled city of Cavite used to have eight colonial churches but now only the belfry of the Recoletos church still stands.

Culture and history are inextricably linked in the province. One may have gone but the other remains.

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Promo Period: July 12 to Sept 30, 2007
Exhibit Schedule:
MANILA: Gateway Mall - July 13-18 - Robinson Ermita - July 20-26 - Market Market - Aug 6-12 - Glorietta - Aug 15-22 - Alabang Town Center - Aug 24-30 - Trinoma Mall - Sept 10-16 - SM Megamall - Sept 24-30
LUZON: CSI San Fernando La Union Mall - Aug 3-5 - CSI Mall Dagupan - Aug 29-Sept 4 - Paseo Real Mall - Tuguegarao - Sept 7-9 - LCC Mall - Naga - Sept 7-14 - SM Clark - July 30 - Aug 5 - SM Dasmariñas - Aug 11-17
VISAYAS: Lee Plaza Mall - Dumaguete - July 13-15 - BQ Mall - Bohol - July 12-22 - Ormoc Superdome - Aug 3-5 - Real Food Centrum - Tacloban - Aug 14-20 - Ayala Center Cebu - Aug 28-Sept 3 - SM Iloilo - Sept 10-16 - SM Bacolod - Sept 24-30
MINDANAO: Gaisano Mall Davao - July 17-23 - Limketkai Mall CDO - July 30-Aug 5 - Valencia City Gym - Aug 24-26 - KCC Mall Gensan - Aug 24-Sept 2 - Bgy San Miguel MP Hall - Iligan - Sept 7-9 - Medina Gym Ozamis - Sept 14-16
Per DTI-NCR Permit No: 2453 Series of 2007

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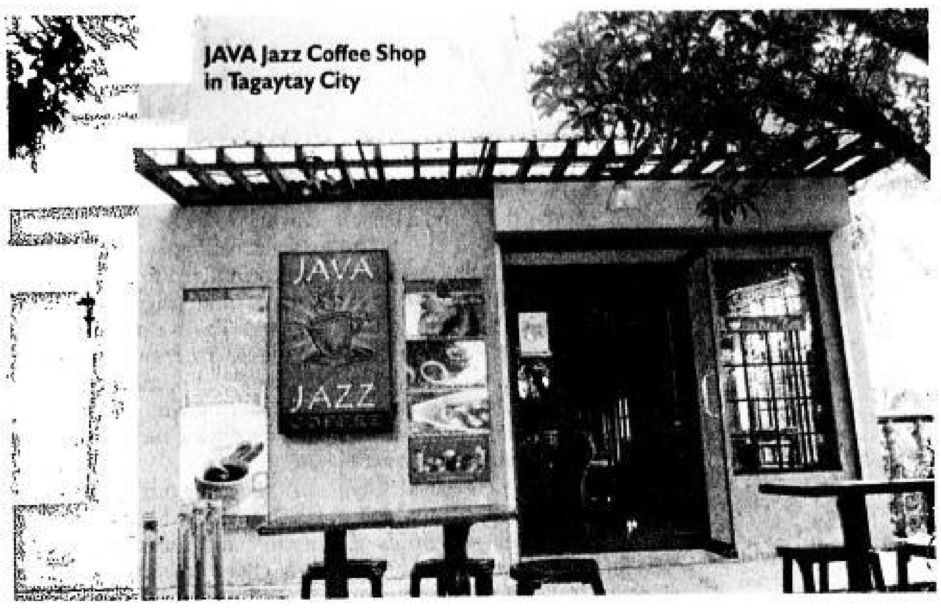


JAVA Jazz Coffee Shop in Tagaytay City

While coffee remains a mainstay, the province has other delicacies to delight foodies

JAVA Jazz Coffee Shop's Sining sa Sahig

More than java is brewing in Cavite

Text by Rowena C. Burgos
Photos by Romy Homillada

VISITING SOME OF CAVITE'S producers of food and drinks, you get to experience the province and appreciate its people. For all people are, in a sense, what they eat.

Java Jazz

Many people's passion for coffee inspired Edray and Lisa Raymundo to put up Java Jazz Coffee Shop in 2004 in Tagaytay City. "The name of the shop comes from our fondness for java or brewed coffee while enjoying jazz music," says Edray, an artist, photographer and graphic designer.

His wife Lisa, the shop's manager, bakes delightful treats like Carrot Cake, Chocolate Cake, Black Forest, Cinnamon, Raisin and Creamy Cheese Pudding, cookies and pastries to go with brews like Café de Tagaytay, Café Americano and Java Mocha Frost. Pasta, pancakes, sandwiches and Filipino meals are also offered.

"Baking is a never-ending learning process. I have to update myself on new techniques and styles because clients always look for something new," Lisa says.

While enjoying the food and listening to jazz music, visitors can view the works of Cavite's artists at the shop's Sining sa Sahig. "It is so called because the gallery has a low ceiling," Edray says. Proceeds from sales of the artworks are donated to various charitable institutions.

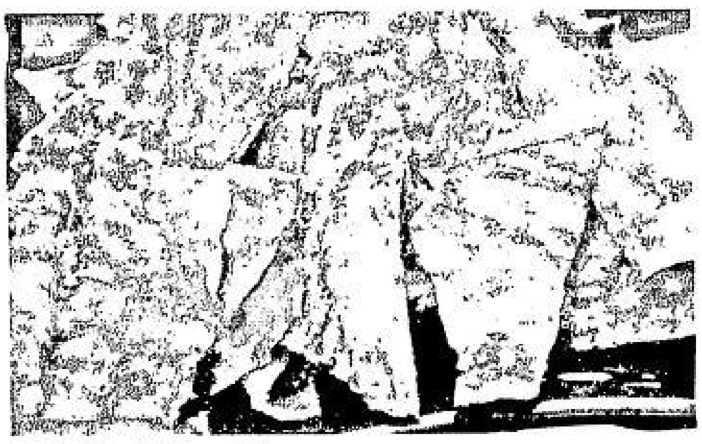
Java Jazz is at 442 Tagaytay-Calamba Road, Sungay West, Tagaytay City; (046)8602699; e-mail javajazzcoffee@hotmail.com.

Café Amadeo

An offspring of the Pahimis Coffee Festival in 2002, when President Macapagal-Arroyo launched Kape Isla, Café Amadeo Development Cooperative has 64 members, mostly millers, traders, producers, farmers, and employees in the business of selling premium green coffee beans and specialty brewed coffee.

"The finest Robusta, Arabica, Liberica, and Excelsa beans are roasted to provide an authentic flavor and stimulating aroma only the coffee masters of upland Cavite can produce," says Emily Camerino, coop manager.

Aside from the Pahimis Blend, Premium Blend, Cavite Pure, Pure Arabica and Pure Robusta, Café Amadeo also sells Tablea de Alfonso, Mountain Sugar, Instant Salabat, *atchara*, peanut butter, cookies and coffee mugs. The blends are distributed to 37 coffee shops and restaurants in Cavite and Metro Manila and exported to California and Australia.



OCEAN Fresh Tahong Chips

DON Roberto's Mango Wines

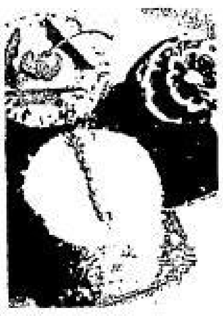
"The coop aims to unify coffee farmers and traders to rehabilitate and promote the Philippine coffee industry. In the process, we're able to generate jobs and create livelihood projects in communities," Camerino says.

Café Amadeo is at Brgy. 6, Poblacion, Amadeo, Cavite; (046)6820074 or 0917-5039574; fax 0973-614461; e-mail cafeamadeo_devtcoop@yahoo.com.ph.

'Kesong puti'

Lucia Villanueva and her mother Demetria Aspurias showed us how the creamy *kesong puti* is produced. They say one method requires pasteurization and the other, simple coagulation.

Main ingredients are coagulating agents such as vinegar, salt and fresh carabao or cow's milk. The sour taste that goes with the salty texture comes from the coagulant.



JAVA Jazz Coffee Shop's Carrot Cake, Chocolate Cake and Black Forest

BC2 Original Famous Digman Halo-Halo's peanuts and Miki Chips

Coagulation involves heating the milk until very warm, but not boiling. The warm milk is ladled into a bowl of vinegar and stirred. As the liquid solidifies and separates, cheese curds are pressed together using the fingers and the vinegar content is drained through a damp cheesecloth. The cheese is molded and the block of *kesong puti* is put in a solution of salt, vinegar, and water to brine. Afterward, it is wrapped in banana leaves.

Villanueva says the cheese keeps for about a week, if refrigerated, and three days, if not. Each piece sells for P25.

Villanueva, who lives in Barangay Tapia, Gen. Trias, Cavite, and her four siblings in Salinas, Imus, Cavite City and Tanza have been in the *kesong puti* business for over 30 years now.

Digman 'halo-halo'

BC2 Original Famous Digman Halo-Halo is well-known for its refreshing glasses of *halo-halo* and *mais con yelo*. But the 50-seater restaurant also serves Pansit Palabok, Pansit Gisado, Chicken Mami, Tokwa't Baboy, Bar-B-Q, Siopao, *balot* and *penoy*, *chicharon*, peanuts and Miki Chips.

Started by Jacobo and Salud Cuevas as a *halo-halo* stand in the 1960s, BC2 Halo-Halo is now owned and managed by their son Bernard. Jacobo's sister, Gloria, supplies ingredients to Digman outlets in Metro Manila.

Ingredients such as banana, *kaong*, *macapuno*, *nata de coco*, *langka*, *mongo*, sweet beans, *garbanzos*, *ube*, *gulaman*, *sago*, *pinipig*, *leche flan* and ice cream make their *halo-halo* a bestseller, Bernard says.

Open daily 10 a.m.-8 p.m., BC2 Original Famous Digman Halo-Halo is at 54 Gawaran St., Bacoor, Cavite.

'Tahong' chips

The owner-proprietor of Ocean Fresh Tahong Chips, Bing Lopez-Angeles, was designing bags and gift items before she started Ocean Fresh. Joining a trade exhibit, she noticed that food products sold faster than novelty items.

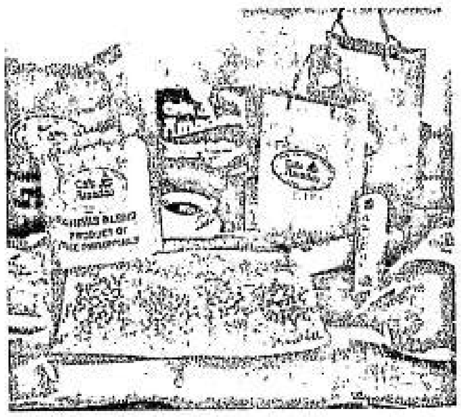
"Since my hometown Bacoor is famous for *tahong*, I decided to use it as raw material," Angeles says. The chips are processed in a factory at 162 Navarrete St., Sineguelasan, Bacoor, Cavite.

"*Tahong* chips are a good alternative to junk food since they have no preservatives. They are rich in iron, iodine and calcium," she says.

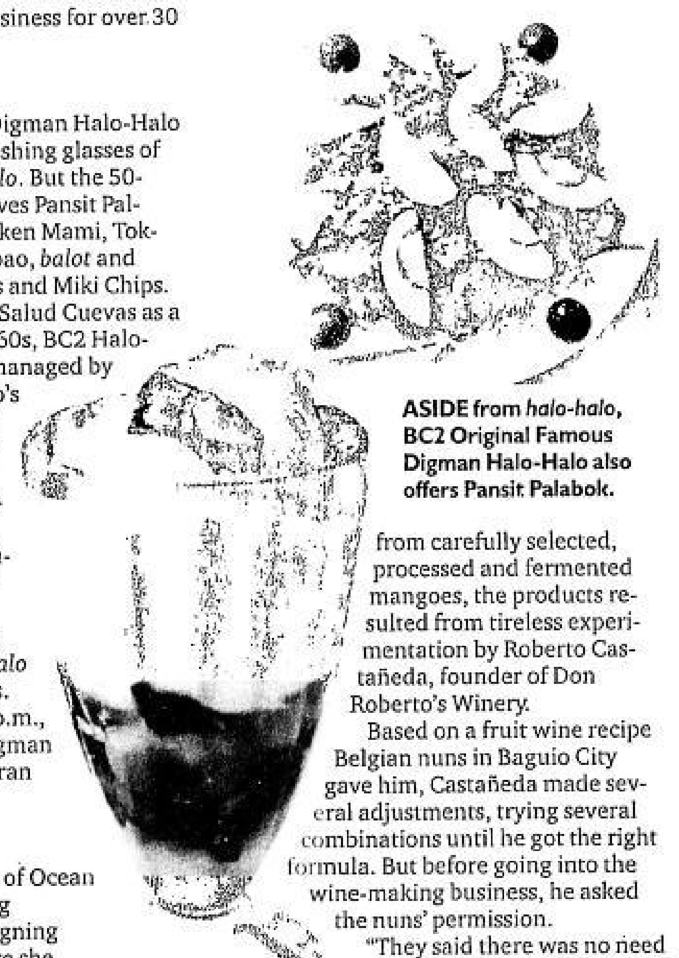
Available in 50-gram and 100-gram packs, Ocean Fresh Tahong Chips (046-4341824, 4343698, 0918-6199689, 0921-9924516; e-mail bingsdelight@yahoo.com) comes with Arengga vinegar dip. The snack item is sold in weekend food bazaars at SM malls in Bacoor, Southmall, Mall of Asia, Makati, North Edsa, Pasig and Megamall.

Don Roberto's wine

Another Caviteño-made product is Don Roberto's Mango Wine, available in two variants: sweet and green mango. Made from carefully selected, processed and fermented mangoes, the products resulted from tireless experimentation by Roberto Castañeda, founder of Don Roberto's Winery.



CAFÉ Amadeo's coffee and *tablea* products



ASIDE from *halo-halo*, BC2 Original Famous Digman Halo-Halo also offers Pansit Palabok.

Based on a fruit wine recipe Belgian nuns in Baguio City gave him, Castañeda made several adjustments, trying several combinations until he got the right formula. But before going into the wine-making business, he asked the nuns' permission.

"They said there was no need for their permission since it was an entirely different recipe," Castañeda says. "So I promised them that for every bottle of mango wine sold, 10 percent would go to them."

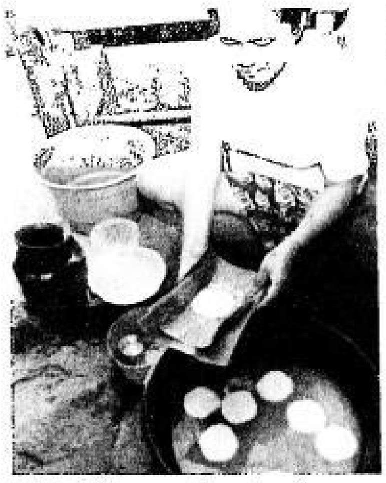
He set up a winery at 100 Gen. E. Topacio St., Imus, Cavite, and formally launched Don Roberto's Green Mango Wine and Sweet Mango Wine (046-4714046 or 0922-8365207; fax 046-4713741; e-mail donrobertos@mangowine.com, website www.mangowine.com) in 2001. The wines, containing 12.5 percent alcohol, are available in 750-ml and 75-cl bottles.

Town's Delight

Town's Delight the Caterer has 35 years of culinary expertise and food service management behind it. It offers buffet menus for weddings, birthdays and kiddie parties.

Town's Delight sales office is at The Wedding Store, 2/L, SM Dasmariñas, Cavite; (046-4323289/3389; 4376055/8501; 9370010; 0918-9281296; 0915-3704919; e-mail info@townsdelight.com; visit www.townsdelight.com).

A FACTORY worker demonstrates the making of Ocean Fresh Tahong Chips.



LUCIA Villanueva shows how *kesong puti* is produced.

WINE-MAKING at Don Roberto's Winery

Cavite's Animal Farm

From page C2

and flowers; and those who maintain effective microorganisms (EM, for organic fertilizer and pesticide).

"Our organic vegetables have almost the same pricing as those that are not, but their freshness is longer-lasting," says Myra Antipuesto, who's in charge of EM and team leader of the tour guides.

Using the best technology from seedling techniques and transplanting to plant nutrition and culture management, including hydroponics, composting and vermiculture (for organic fertilizer), the EM-maintained farm boasts that here nothing goes to waste.

It is planted to almost anything, from annual or long-term crops (coffee, jackfruit, avocado, *santol*, *calamansi*, *guyabano*); to mid-term (papaya, banana, pineapple); and short-term crops (pepper, tomato, gourd, squash, lettuce, okra).

It has a shed for the culture of oyster mushroom; a greenhouse for hydroponics farming of lettuce; an apiary with a honey-extraction house. There's also a garden plot for experimenting the growing of strawberry in humid weather.

On top of a mound is a pavilion where a salad bar is set up for guests when lettuce is available.

Ideal venue

And the flowers are abloom. On a hillock where the breeze comes and goes is an orchid pavilion, below which is an infinity pond where ducks and geese swim among the water hyacinths. Guests are encouraged to throw a gratitude coin into the water and make a wish.

Under the shade trees are a picnic area with a pantryhouse, a camping site, a butterfly garden, a pet cemetery. There's also a *tilapia* pond and a restaurant-café where guests may select the fresh produce they want for their dishes.

CAMP site in the orchard

Aside from the sheer fun and relaxation it offers, the place is an ideal venue for team-building of company employees; educational tours of students and teachers interested in knowing about the sources of our food and how they are interrelated; weddings, nature-inspired parties and other social functions. Entrance fee is P100 for adults and P50 for children.

On Oct. 6-15, it holds its first floral and vegetable fair for plant growers and dealers, flower arrangers, gardening enthusiasts, and simple nature-lovers. The fair is billed as a prelude to All Saints' Day.

Logan says there's a plan to add to Paradizoo a crocodile farm, a few villas and a spa. Not exactly paradise—but still a long, long way from the original plan of turning the lot into a subdivision.

Constantino C. Tejero

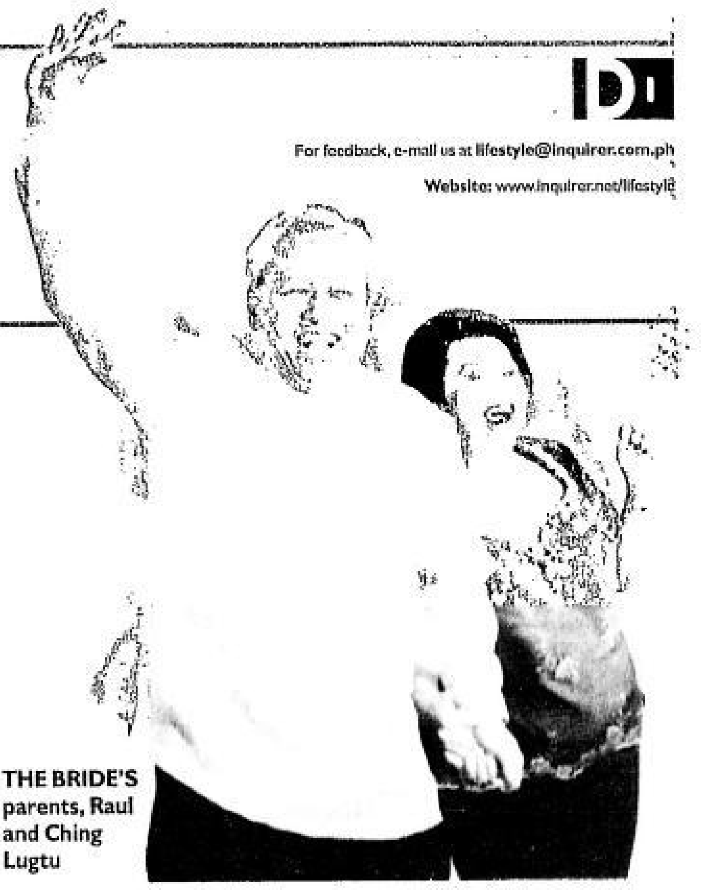
Sunday LIFESTYLE

Around the world through a *wedding*

The reception venue was transformed into different travel destinations, with each food station featuring a distinct cuisine

By Maurice Arcache

NEWLYWEDS: Young Iloilo businessman Anthony David Yang and his bride, Cosmo Manille beauty Princess "Pring" Carmela Lugtu



THE BRIDE'S parents, Raul and Ching Lugtu

IT WAS ONE OF those chic and elaborate weddings of the social season.

Good-looking Southern gent Anthony David Yang of Iloilo City, son of mega businessman Jessie Yang and Zinnia Y, prominent personas of that southern city, said his "I do" to eye-catching beauty Princess Carmela Lugtu, daughter of Raul Lugtu, vice president for operations for Alternative Beverages Co., and Ching Lugtu of Cosmo Manille, at Santuario de San José Church in Greenhills.

Now, take note, people: The theme of this wedding was "Around the World." It was inspired by the couple's dream of traveling around the world together.

The motif was interpreted through the combined magic of florist Francis Hen Jr. and Rustan's' Martin Jamora. The by-membership-only Wack-Wack Golf & Country Club's William J. Shaw Pavilion was transformed into different travel destinations, with food stations featuring their distinct regional cuisine scattered around the pavilion—Japanese, Filipino, Italian and Chinese—all prepared by the popular The Plaza.

Bizu provided the mouthwatering, calorific, to-die-for desserts.

Aprés the must-have short speech of the best man, the father of the bride and a couple of close pals, invitees received souvenir passports containing the couple's fond thoughts of their entourage. The cake by Karla Magbanua of Claycakes

AROUND/D4

THE GROOM'S fun parents, Jessie and Zinnia Yang, make their entrance.

THE COUPLE with Anthony Nazario; (standing) Iloilo pals Jake and Sarah Borres, and Eric Navarro

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NEW!

Also available:
Flakes in oil with Calamansi

Ang linamnam ng manamis-namis na tuna,
ngayon mas pinasarap ng toyo at sariwang
katas ng kalamansi! Lasap na lasap ang asim-sarap!
Matitikman na sa bagong Blue Bay Tuna Toyomansi,
ang pinaghalong ulam at sawsawang katakam-takam!

Subukan na ang bagong kilig-sarap
mula sa Blue Bay Tuna!

Ganyan magmahal pag Nanay ka.

PURELY PERSONAL
Josephine Darang

San Lorenzo Ruiz's 20th canonization year

FILIPINO-AMERICANS, MOSTly from New York, with Fr. Erno Diaz, will celebrate the 20th anniversary on Oct. 18 in Rome of the canonization by Pope John Paul II of San Lorenzo Ruiz, the first Filipino saint.

Father Erno, director of the Filipino Apostolate Center in New York and rector of the Chapel of San Lorenzo, will officiate in the concelebrated Mass with priests from the Colegio Filipino in the Basilica of St. Peter.

The chapel in New York is at 378 Broome St. in lower Manhattan. Fil-Ams, even Chinese immigrants, attend the 12:15 p.m. Mass everyday.

Fil-Ams in other states will be invited to New York for the Fiesta Mass Sept. 23, 2:30 p.m., at St. Patrick's Cathedral. Antipolo Bishop Gabriel Reyes will officiate in the concelebrated Mass. Bishop Reyes initiated the request to the archdiocese of New York to give Filipinos a church of their own.

Fiesta *hermanos mayores* are engineer Rudy and Dr. Connie Quiambao. Some 4,000 people are expected to attend.

Recent visitors to the chapel were Ambassador and Ms Hilario Davide Jr.; Marissa Villarama, Supreme Court clerk of court; Dr. Efren Regio, Vangie Yabut, Dr. Beth Viapiano, Jason Duterte, Mariquit Roxas, Butch Samson and daughter.

Advisory council

Father Erno has invited devotees to form the San Lorenzo Ruiz Chapel of New York Advisory Council in Manila to help develop the chapel and pastoral center in New York into a global parish for Filipino immigrants, addressing their spiritual and pastoral needs.

During a recent visit to the Philippines, Father Erno wrote to the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, through Archbishop Angel Lagdameo, requesting that San Lorenzo Ruiz be officially declared patron saint of Filipino immigrants.

Other signatories were Dr. Grace Rualo-Pasigan, president; Geraldine Osias and Sonia Atabug, secretary and treasurer; Josephine C. Darang, PRO; and board members Msgr. José Clemente Ignacio, rector of the National Shrine of the Sacred Heart; Philip Lee, president of Rotary Club of Chinatown; Isabel Tobias, secretary-general of the Presidential Council for Values Formation; businessman Candido S. Dizon; and Dr. Federico Macaranas, executive director of the Asian Institute of Management Policy Center.

Tele-vangelism

Father Erno is hopeful that, with proper funding, the Chapel of San Lorenzo Ruiz could link up with Television Filipino Cable and evangelize Filipino immigrants all over the world a la EWTN (Eternal Word Television Network). To donate, please e-mail ernodiaz@aol.com or call 1-212-9661019 in New York.

San Lorenzo Ruiz was an immigrant martyred in Japan. Father Erno said we could inculcate in our immigrants the virtues of San Lorenzo Ruiz such as high standards of moral behavior, goodness, and honesty through the spiritual and pastoral program of the Chapel of San Lorenzo Ruiz and the Philippine Pastoral Center.

Book launch

The book "Araneta: A Love Affair with God and Country" covers several generations of Aranetas beginning with patriarch Gregorio Araneta and matriarch Carmen Zaragoza who had 14 children, including Salvador Araneta, father of Ma. Lina A. Santiago who wrote the book.

To be launched Sept. 26, 4 p.m., at White Cross Orphanage in San Juan, the book also features Lina's mother, Doña Victoria Lopez Araneta, who founded White Cross Orphanage before the war. The launch is one of the highlights of the centennial of Doña Victoria's birth anniversary this year.

Over lunch one day, Lina told me more about her fascinating family. Her uncle, Fr. Francisco Araneta, SJ, was affectionately called Father Fritz. Many people consulted him in his office at the old Ateneo de Manila on Padre Faura Street.

Tonypet Araneta's father was lawyer Antonio Araneta Sr. The other children were Carmita, José, Vicente, Luis (father of Greggy, Patty and Elvira Araneta); Ramon (father of Bomboy
garita, Rosita (mother
cuaz); Teresa Albert, Pa
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chita, single, who died y

Feast day

On Sept. 24, different
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Quezon City; Bahay Pari
panga; and Holy Trinit
San Nicolas, Bacoor, Cavi

Misa Concelebrada in
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Luis Antonio Tagle. Fr. B
parish priest.

Earth-friendly

On its 36th year, Sany
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Gaia is Greek for Moth
pledges to develop prod
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Fundraiser

The fundraising exhibi
is ongoing until Oct.
restaurant, Amorsolo T
Proceeds from the sale
Garcia's paintings of sun
fund a center for values f
ing center and a retreat
da Springs of Hope Heali

Bethesda started its h
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Wholeness program for
public servants with the
chaplain Fr. Audencio M

Fr. Armand Tangi, SSP,
chapel for seminarians i
while Fr. Paul Yntig, SSP,
to support seminarians.

OFFICERS and members of the San Lorenzo Ruiz Chapel New York Advisor Manila posing with Fr. Erno Diaz (second from right) are Josephine Darang, Clemente Ignacio, Dr. Grace Pasigan, Isabel Tobias; (standing) Philip Lee, G Sonia Atabug and Candido Dizon

ENGINEER Rody and Dr. Connie Quiambao are the *hermanos mayores* of the San Lorenzo Ruiz fiesta in New York's St. Patrick Cathedral, where mass will be said Sept. 23, 2 p.m.

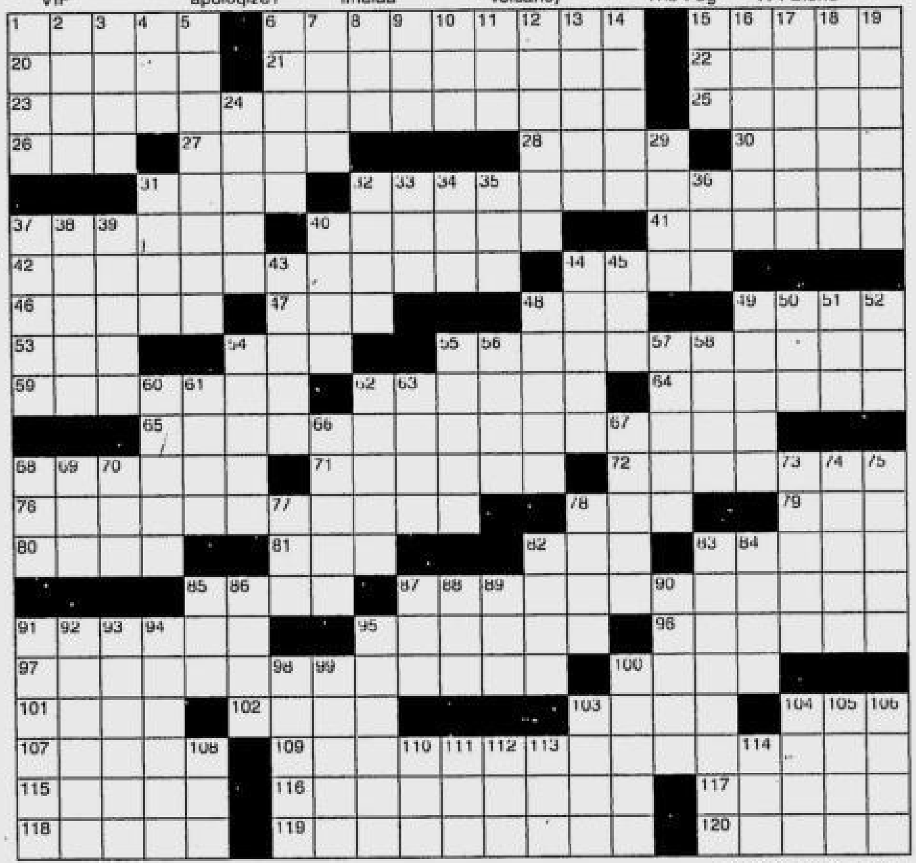
SUNDAY CROSSWORD

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo

BIRD PLAY

ACROSS
1 Calling costs
6 City SE of L.A.
15 Capital on the Seine
20 Run — (go berserk: Var.)
21 Basic algebra expressions
22 Actress Papas
23 Bird's cravings?
25 Eat a bit of
26 Mined rocks
27 Come in last
28 James of "Las Vegas"
30 Conquer
31 Ice sheet
32 Comment after your bird does something crude?
37 Tons
40 Cafes
41 River to the Missouri
42 Made a bird?
44 Lord's wife
46 Stops
47 Had life
48 Young man
49 Marketed
53 Biblical suffix
54 Capitol Hill VIP
55 Roost where a bird sits and vocalizes?
59 Put out a new printing of
62 African expedition
64 The yellow Teletubby
65 Hybrid bird?
68 Old Chevy model
71 Extremely
72 Range of vision
76 Bird from long ago?
78 Idiot boxes
79 The "A" of ETA: Abbr.
80 Praise-filled poems
81 Realtor's unit
82 Winning sign
83 Caribbean scuba spot
85 Choir song
87 Crazy bird?
91 Composer Mahler
95 Lead-in to a bit of gossip
96 Fla. retirement city, briefly
97 Advice for a bird that should apologize?
100 "Pee- — Big Adventure"
101 In re
102 Fodder tower
103 Having on footwear
104 Alternative to a PC
107 Twilights
109 Bird that's a relative?
115 Poet T.S. —
116 Only thing that doesn't fit in
117 Rake prongs
118 Actor DeVito
119 Stars with young fans
120 Have life

DOWN
1 Chalupa kin
2 Sharif of "Ashanti"
3 Draw in
4 PC monitor type
5 Frying pans
6 Demean
7 Cleopatra's river
8 Furthermore
9 Weeding tool
10 They're between els and ens
11 It's opposite IX on clocks
12 Ferdinand or Imelda
13 Just-washed
14 State in NE India
15 Plum center
16 Qatar's land
17 Feel ill will at
18 In one piece
19 Be irate
24 Hanging loop
29 "— Blue" (cop show)
31 Horizontal
32 Zadora and others
33 2005 Best Director — Lee
34 Theology subj.
35 "Dr." who raps
36 Go by plane
37 Brownish yellow color
38 Make a speech
39 New — (India's capital)
40 University VIP
43 Nerdy type
44 Livy's language
45 Big flap
48 Film director Mervyn
49 Saturates
50 Barn bird
51 Mauna — (Hawaiian volcano)
52 Genetic material
54 Poison ivy's cousin
55 Habitually
56 Catch in the act
57 Sculpting materials
58 Seldom seen
60 Signs of healing
61 Notes between fa and ti
62 Hog sound
63 Longest Swiss river
66 "The battle —!"
67 Tier
68 "Sands of — Jima"
69 Angry
70 "Ginger —" (Eleanor Estes kids' book)
73 — cuisine
74 Celestial path
75 Vestige
77 J-N connection
78 Watch over
82 Extremely
83 Precede
84 Knocks sharply
85 Holbrook of "The Fog"
86 Part of YSL
87 It follows pi
88 — Lingus (carrier to Dublin)
89 Alternate spelling of a wd.
90 Make — (do something with)
91 Impelled
92 Actress Andress
93 Substitutes (for)
94 Accepted, as a challenge
95 Tryster with Tristan
98 Prejudiced person
99 Evade
100 Stimulates
103 Jewish temple
104 Prefix with van
105 Beers in Britain
106 Anatomical sac
108 Hog hangout
110 Chaney of old horror
111 Ending of pasta names
112 Beau of Nancy Drew
113 Overly
114 Blend



answer on page D4

4th Cuna floral contest on Sept. 22

THE WORLD FLOWER Council (WFC) Philippines is holding the fourth Rachy Z. Cuna Cup, a competition for floral excellence, Sept. 22, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., at World Trade Center, Pasay City.

The competition, open to all florists, hobbyists, and enthusiasts, is divided into two categories: amateur and professional.

Prizes are:

Amateur division

First prize—P30,000, glass trophy and Cuna book

Second prize—P20,000 and glass trophy

Third prize—P10,000 and glass trophy

Professional division

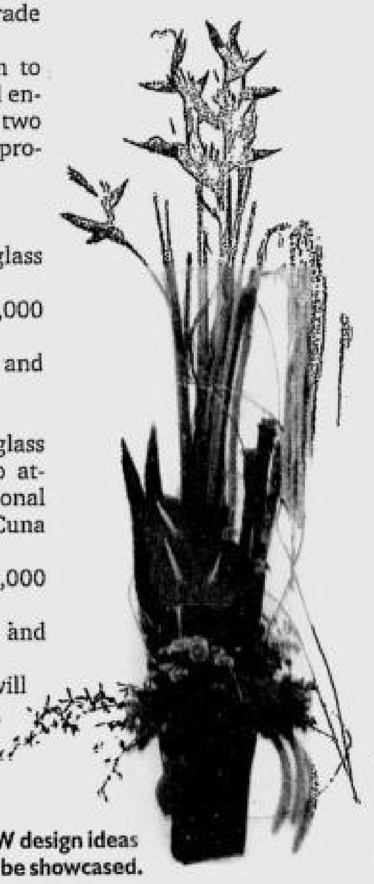
First prize—P50,000, glass trophy, trip to Macau to attend the WFC International Summit 2008, and Cuna book

Second prize—P30,000 and glass trophy

Third prize—P20,000 and glass trophy

Part of the proceeds will go to Lingap Sto. Niño, the social arm of Sto. Niño de Pandacan Catholic Parish.

Application forms are available at Casa Flores de Belen, 8140847; and King Louis Flowers & Plants, 9294114/9294110.



NEW design ideas will be showcased.

DEAR EMILY,

I am 35 years old and s
had relationships in the
one had been serious en
to entertain the thought

At this age, the chanc
lifetime partner that I w
will love me in return
ished. I have accepted t
may not get married at a
to have a child.

As if in answer to a p
someone in May. He is 34

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the father of my kid. He
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pregnant wife.

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he was determined to k
We started talking again
seeing each other once m

I am writing to you b

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Msgr. José
raldine Osias,

Araneta); Mar-
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Candaba, Pam-
Parish, Barrio
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oyet Santiago is

Philippines fol-
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Milestones

We welcome announcements of weddings and engagements. Submit names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, and gown designer along with a photo of the couple and a sketch of the bridal gown, if any, to the INQUIRER, *P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City. E-mail to lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. A photo of the bride and groom is required if the wedding has already taken place. Announcements will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the senders.*

ALCANTARA 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Max and Lita Alcantara celebrated recently their golden wedding anniversary with a thanksgiving Mass at San Sebastian Cathedral. Reception was held at Riverside, Lipa City.

MUNTANE-PASCUAL

Christine Marie P. Pascual and **Manuel Pisa Muntane** will tie the knot on Oct. 20 at Fernwoods Garden. Reception will be held at Fernwoods' Cycad Garden.

ESPERIDA-CUMMINS

Norma Florentino Esperida and **John Francis Cummins** will wed on Oct. 13 at the St. Monica Church in Santa Monica, California, USA. Reception will follow at the Le Merigot Hotel. A graduate of the University of the Philippines, Esperida is the Eligibility Section chief, Office of Admissions, State Bar of California. Cummins has a bachelor's degree from Seattle University, MS and MBA from California State University, Sacramento. He is claims adjuster, State Compensation Insurance Fund. The couple will honeymoon in Italy then settle down in Santa Monica.

PERMEL DEBUT

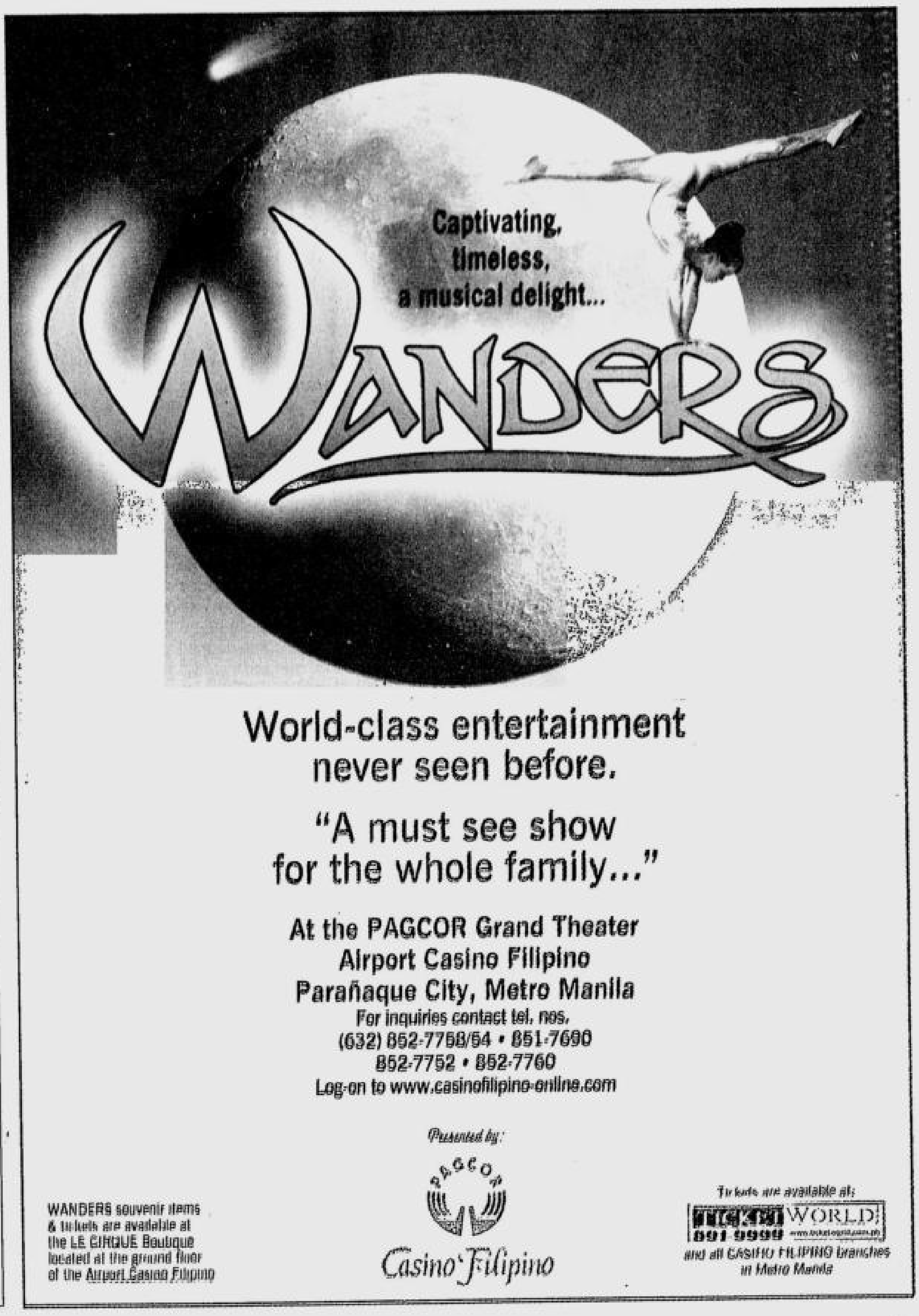
Aizel Dizon Permel, daughter of **Rowel** and **Lorna Permel**, celebrated her 18th birthday recently at Fernando Air Base Golf Club, Lipa City. She is a second-year nursing student at De La Salle-Lipa. Her gown was designed by Janine Hernandez.

Luz Garcia marks 100th birthday

LUZ MANIAUL GARCIA, matriarch of the Maniaul clan and a retired professor of English, celebrated recently her 100th birthday with a thanksgiving service and lunch at the Centennial Hall of Manila Hotel.

Present were about 100 relatives and guests led by her sisters Josefina M. Majaba and Rebecca M. Maramba, her children Manuel Jr., Lucinda (Lucy) and Cynthia, and scores of nephews, nieces, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Her third child, Ofelia, who lives in the United States, could not attend the celebration because she was sick.

A visiting Fulbright fellow cited Garcia as "the best critic teacher" in the world after observing her classes in English at the Far Eastern University. At the advanced age of 81, she won two poetry contests in the US. She is the widow of Manuel Garcia, an English professor like her and former editor of the Official Gazette.



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EMILY'S POST

Emily Marcelo

Eager to be a mom

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cause I feel so guilty. I have never been a mistress in my life. I have a stable job and I know it may cost me my work and my profession if I push through with my idea of having a child. But, I just want to have my baby.

People are awed by the modest accomplishments I have at my age. But it will be my ultimate joy to have a child with this man that I have grown to love.

I don't intend to wreck his family. In fact, out of guilt, I have been of some assistance to him when his family runs short of money. But he never abused my generosity and I have made it clear that I am not going to be a milking cow.

LEAH

As of now, you are saying you just want a baby from this man and nothing more.

Really? But how soon before you start making your demands once the baby becomes a reality?

Everything looks neat, simple, doable and terribly uncomplicated now, this minute. You are not taking into account, though, the depression, the pain, the frustration, the unpleasantness and the uneasiness that go with pregnancy.

Can you battle all of these alone for nine months—with nary a call to him for help in the middle of the night?

And take careful note as well of where he stands. He was just an average wage earner, you said, while you were quite accomplished.

How long before he starts dropping hints here and there of his financial needs? Can you take surges in expenses here, there, and a little bit more?

Have you programmed your mind to keep on giving without expecting at all any repayment in kind from him?

Romance at its infancy is dreamily out of this world! You are feverish, breathless, frenzied and dizzyingly in love!

But all fevers cool, and fogs, whether in your eyes or in the natural environment, clear up.

You can very well get a more suitable guy with so much less baggage than this boyfriend of yours, if you do not wrap around yourself the words "unavailable to others," don't you think so?

Before you sign away your future to this guy, be very, very sure of yourself and consider the implications of a terribly unsure and volatile tomorrow.

Ever heard of the saying "crying over spilt milk?" There is nothing more pathetic than hearing yourself say eventually, "I shouldn't have!"

E-mail the author at emarcelo@inquirer.com.ph, Subject: Lifestyle, or send your letters to INQUIRER. *Log on to www.pbs.gov.ph and listen to Ms Marcelo co-host the program "Kalikasan Vigilante," 7:15-8:30 p.m., Monday-Friday, on dwBR 104.3 FM.*

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NEWLYWEDS David and Pring join the fun.

BRIDESMAIDS Mae Dichupa, Sally Dy, Sam Dichupa, Carla Bermejo, and Trisia Bustamante; matron of honor Cristina Fernandez, best man Jay Jay Yang, Mario Pronstroller, Eric Navarro, Enrique Borja, the bride's brother Leslie Lugtu; (front) ring bearer Miggy Sunico; flower girls Gabby Avellana and Andie Carpio, and Bible bearer Miggy Bautista

VICTOR Endriga, Narz Lim-Reider, Dave and Nena Dichupa

DAVE and Pring with Rose Kirzner and Violet Vargas

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Around the world . . .

TIM Saison, the newlyweds, and Bobby Uyquiengco; (seated) Herry Tan, Ellen Tan, Heddy Manzano, and Tess Uyquiengco

GEANN Concepcion, Mae Sunico, the bride, Hazel Avellana and the bride's mom, Ching Lugtu

THE NEWLYWEDS
with Ran... Lyn
Libo... ...men,
Sebreper... Jean...
...acuri

ELAINE Dichupa, Vargas and Dr. Angie Du

SALE and Peter Dy

THE BRIDE with brother Leslie; (above) Dr. Chit and Col. Tony Doronila

From page D1

showcased awesome replicas of some of the most famous landmarks of the world. I cannot think of any wedding where I have seen the likes of them.

The bride looked absolutely radiant in her romantic wedding gown made by talented Carla Guiao and further enhanced by fashion maven Robbie Pinera.

After the cutting of the cake, the couple moved from table to table, greeting each of their guests personally. The fun began, rocking the Pavilion at intensity 9.

The groom's Manille-based southern gang hit the dance floor till Cinderella's bedtime, thanks to the sounds of Lynn Sherman of the Lynn Sherman Show, and the bride's uncle, Koko Bermejo, the master drummer.

It was truly a celebration of global proportions. The evening featured endless dancing, glorious fireworks, ever flowing wine, champagne glass tower and tons of good-looking faces. For the wedding's grand finale, confetti was thrown.

BUSINESS magnate brothers Mario and Ramon Yang

VICTOR Neri and Adrian Olizon

DICK Cho

FREDDY Herrera

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD

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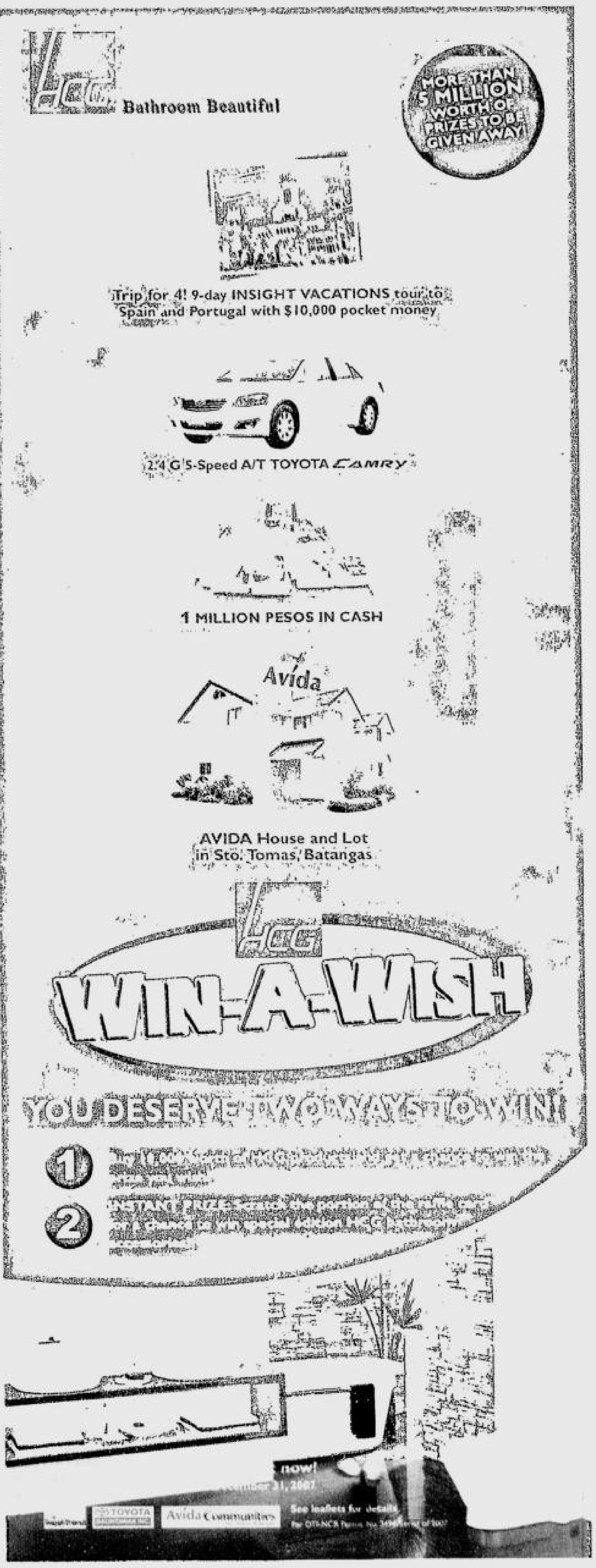
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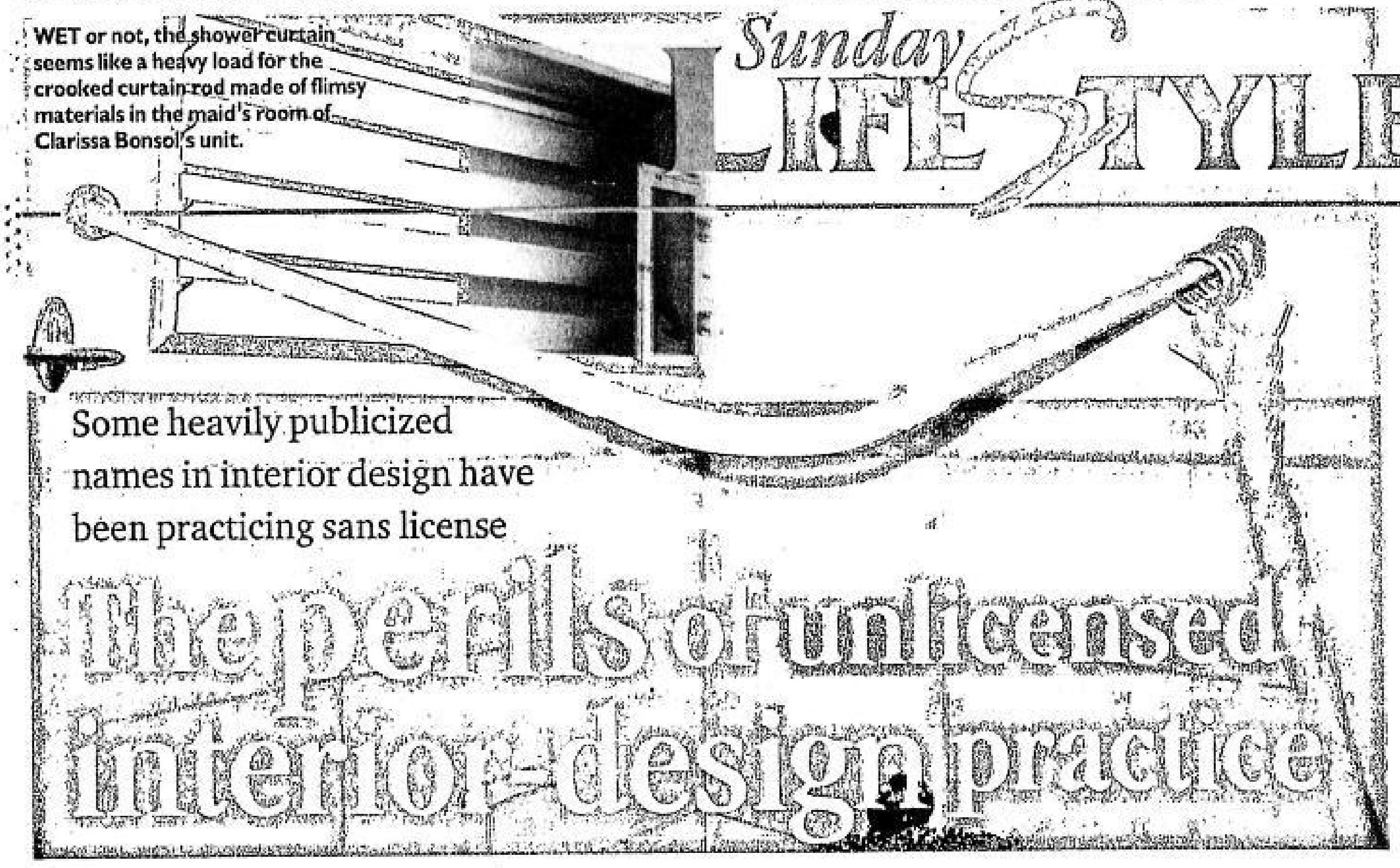


WET or not, the shower curtain seems like a heavy load for the crooked curtain rod made of flimsy materials in the maid's room of Clarissa Bonsol's unit.

Some heavily publicized names in interior design have been practicing sans license

The perils of unlicensed interior-design practice

By Alex Y. Vergara

SINCE INTERIOR DESIGN became a four-year course in the Philippines with the first batch of graduates from the University of Santo Tomas in the late 1950s, industry veteran Belen Morey has yet to come across a case of someone dying from a badly painted wall or a poorly designed ceiling. Well, at least not directly.

But before the practice of interior design was regulated, first under a specialty board supervised by the board of architecture in 1983 and later under its very own board with the enactment of Republic Act 8534 or the Interior Design Act of 1998, cases of misrepresentation as well as fraud by both pseudo and supposedly legitimate practitioners had been rampant.

And if ill feelings resulting from seemingly overpriced and half-baked interior design jobs (*see sidebar story*) could kill, not a few dissatisfied clients would have been long dead and buried by now.

"Curtain suppliers, for instance, whose only qualification was their huge inventory of draping materials, passed themselves off as interior designers," says Morey. "Worse, most people then couldn't seem to tell the difference between an interior designer and interior decorator."

Thus, not a few hapless clients ended up paying more (for less) than they had to. This was a time when expectations were rather "low" and globalization was a mere figment of some futurist's imagination.

This special report comes in the heels of a story INQUIRER LIFESTYLE did a month ago on the practice of architecture in the country today. Unlike architects, interior designers took some time to fully regulate their profession. But even in the early days, a number of unwritten rules already governed these practitioners.

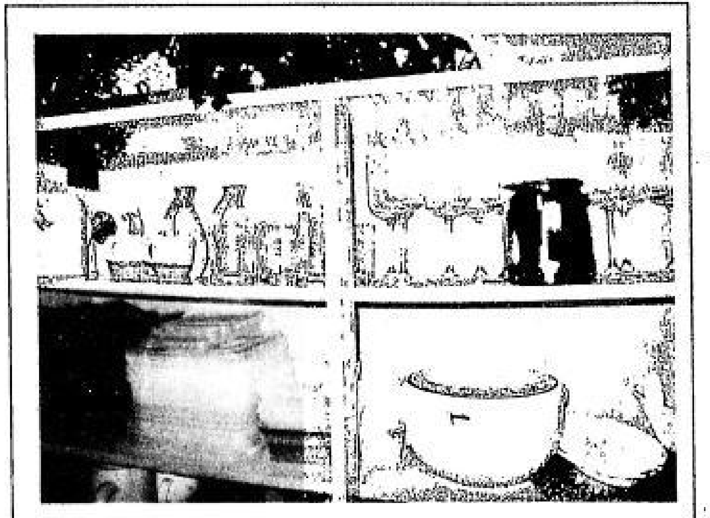
While an interior decorator is primarily concerned with sourcing and arrangement of superficial components such as furniture and accent pieces, an interior designer goes beyond the surface by taking into account the client's preferences as well as lifestyle.

Unlike an interior decorator who usually relies on his or her experience and good taste, an interior designer is also expected to have a working knowledge of architecture, structural engineering, mathematics, psychology, art history and even chemistry.

But why is there a need to regulate a supposedly creative profession dealing in harmony and beauty in the first place?

Since an interior design project also in-

THE PERILS/ E2



A RICKETY kitchen cabinet with drooping shelves

Interior motives

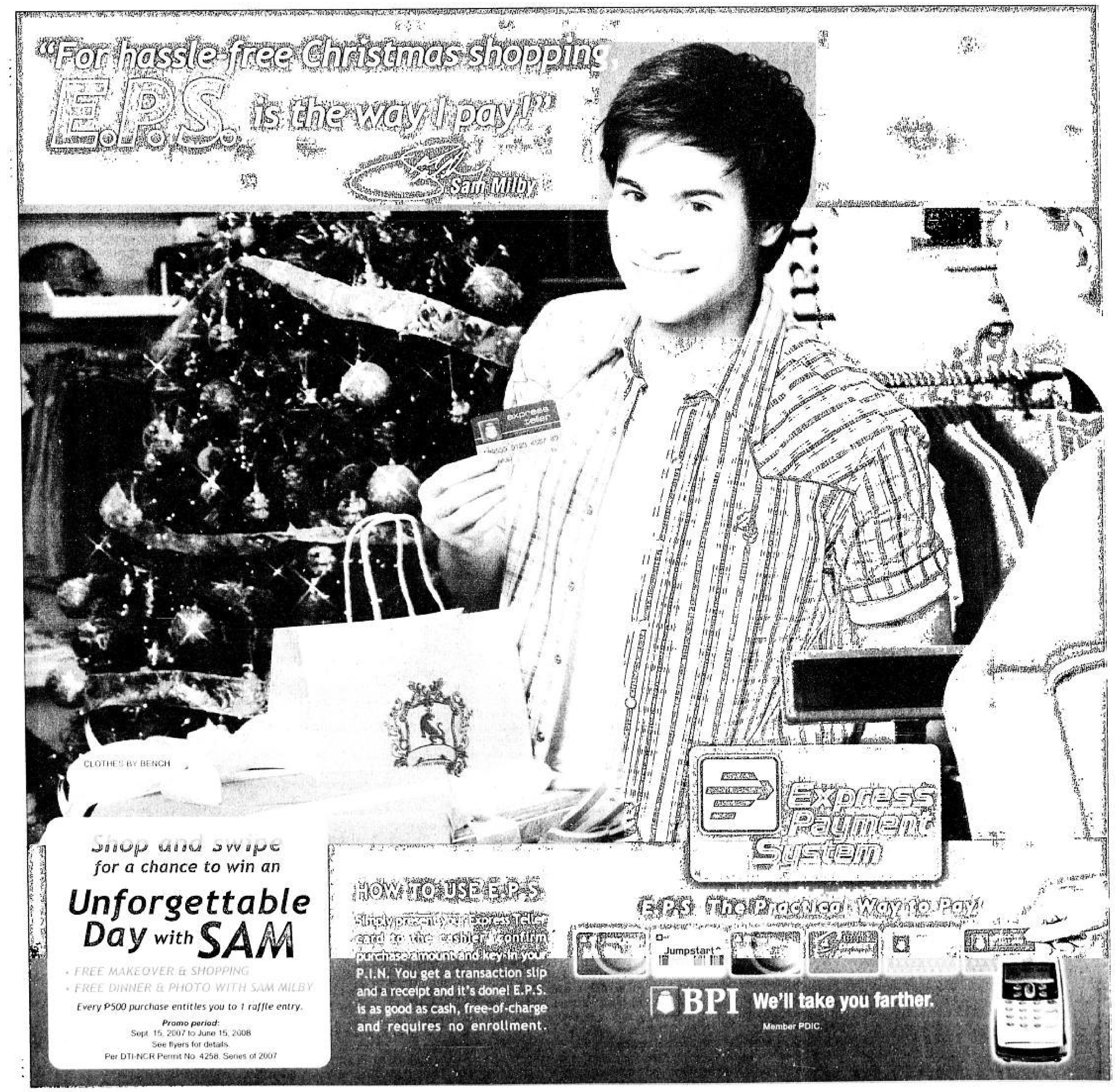
Two women break their silence on their tiff with an unlicensed but practicing interior designer

IS THIS A CLASSIC CASE OF misrepresentation bordering on fraud, as its two complainants insist, or is this simply a concerted and malicious "demolition job," as the subject of the complaint would like the world to believe?

In its efforts to crack down on unlicensed and unregistered interior designers, the Philippine Institute of Interior Designers (PIID), through its executive director for professional practice, Marcelo Alonzo, convinced Clarissa "Butch" Bonsol to come out in the open and file a formal complaint against a certain Margarita "Marge" Estrella sometime last year.

The development is unprecedented in a number of ways. Apart from being the first formal complaint PIID has received since it decided to go high-profile with its

INTERIOR/ E2



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Interior motives

From page E1

campaign, it can also be a test of how effective or limited the law is in dealing with supposed acts of illegal practitioners.

In the course of her complaint, Bonsol later found out from PIID that Estrella is neither a licensed nor a registered interior designer. Estrella, who claims to have studied interior design in New York, didn't deny her lack of license to practice locally. She, however, pointed out that she isn't the only person practicing interior design in the Philippines without a license.

"What's important is my interior design company is duly registered," she said. "I see no need to take the board or avail of an exemption."

PIID has yet to call the Department of Justice's attention regarding the case, but the parties involved have already traded accusations and counteraccusations in heated telephone calls and a series of lawsuits that were either dismissed or supposedly settled amicably over the last two years.

Foreclosed property

The case stemmed from a condo unit at the Elizabeth Place in Makati, which Bonsol, president and managing director of What's On and Expat Newspaper, bought several years ago from China Bank.

Elizabeth Place was a foreclosed property the bank acquired and later sold to the public. The bank tapped the services of Estrella, owner of a company called Décor's Ligna, to make improvements in the building's public areas, as well as outfit a model unit facing H.V. dela Costa Street, which eventually went to Bonsol.

"I really wanted a unit facing dela Costa," said Bonsol, "but I was told there were no units left except for the model unit. I had no choice but to get it and deal with Marge."

For its part, China Bank, through its acquired assets division, distanced itself from any transaction Estrella might have entered into with the property's unit owners.

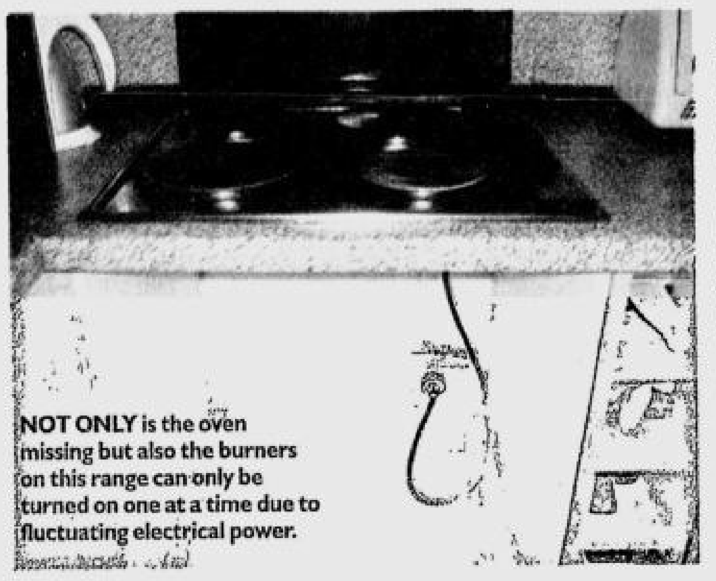
"No one was designated, either in an official or unofficial capacity, as designer of the building," said Alex Escucha, China Bank's head of corporate communications, via a text message. "Condo owners were free to get their own designers."

But China Bank does not deny it got Estrella to outfit and improve the model unit, so that Bonsol really had no choice but to deal with the unlicensed interior designer, who also owned spaces in the building.

Stiff price

On top of the P5 million she was expected to pay the bank for the unit, Bonsol had to pay Estrella an additional P1.6 million for the unit's "improvements." The deal, according to Bonsol, supposedly included furniture and fixtures as well as electrical, telephone and cable connections.

"The price of the so-called improvements was a bit stiff," said Bonsol. "But that's not the point of my complaint. After paying that much, I expected everything to be in good working condition."



NOT ONLY is the oven missing but also the burners on this range can only be turned on one at a time due to fluctuating electrical power.

THIS decorative image of Buddha had been chipped (see close-up shot above) even before the owner moved in.

UNSIGHTLY wirings are common in the absence of electrical connections that should have been concealed behind the wall.

When she moved in, however, she was aghast to find a number of substandard as well as nonexistent features: sockets with no electric current, nonexistent cable and telephone connections, flimsy kitchen cabinets, drawers that were falling apart, cheap bathroom tiles and fixtures, not to mention scalding water from the bathroom tap.

"What's the use of providing sockets when they have no power?" Bonsol asked. "In the course of doing improvements on the unit, Marge merely covered and painted these vital connections over."

Bonsol also learned later that the curtain Estrella placed was far narrower than the window. And never mind the power-hungry microwave oven and rice cooker. She could only turn on a four-burner gas stove one at a time since there wasn't enough power to begin with.

"It was really hilarious except for the fact that it was done at my expense," she sighed.

She also alleged that some minor items found on a list provided by Estrella, which she received prior to making an initial payment, were missing. What's more, she added, Estrella reneged on her word to include a TV, a refrigerator and a washing machine in the package.

The other side

But Estrella insisted that everything was aboveboard and that she never promised anything beyond the list of items she provided Bonsol. In fact, she said, Bonsol went several times to the model unit and even asked her for a 10-percent discount, which the interior designer readily granted.

"What is she talking about?" Estrella asked. "She loved the unit! How could I have put one over her when she was supposed to be an astute managing director?"

She also lamented the fact that Bonsol still has to pay her P150,000, representing the last in a series of post-dated checks the former client issued her.

The amount became Estrella's basis to sue Bonsol, who had earlier directed her bank not to fund the check. The case was dismissed after a Makati judge asked the two women to first settle the matter at the barangay level.

Bonsol knew fully well what she was getting into, Estrella added. Since the deal was on "as is, where is" basis, she didn't design the unit with Bonsol's needs in mind. Besides, she said, the bulk of Bonsol's complaints were building-related, which China Bank later attended to.

"If she hates what I did to the unit," said Estrella, "then why is she still there? Why hasn't she packed up and left?"

Bonsol, however, said Estrella led her to believe that the unit, with all its improvements, was ready for occupancy. What made her eventually sign on the dotted line was Estrella's assurance that she would be on call to attend to "future concerns."

Estrella, who has an office on the ground floor, also offers drinking water and laundry services to denizens of Elizabeth Place.

"I was probably too trusting," Bonsol admitted. "I was in a hurry to get the unit because I was leaving for the US then. But I wouldn't have parted with my money that quickly had it not been for Marge's assurance. Since she was identified with China Bank, I thought I was dealing with a professional whose every word I could count on."

Estrella, however, said Bonsol's complaints were a mere ruse to avoid having to settle her obligations in full.

"I have the satisfaction of telling everybody that she still owes me P151,250," Estrella said as she showed us Bonsol's unfunded check. "I'm surprised that she's still at it, maligning my reputation at every turn, while I've moved on. I'm leaving it all to God. I believe in divine justice."

Ally

Meanwhile, Bonsol has found an ally in Jinky Hechanova in her war with Estrella. Hechanova, a businesswoman, also owns a unit at Elizabeth Place that she started renting out sometime last year because "I couldn't stand to see her (Estrella's) work."

Hechanova has yet to file a formal complaint with PIID, but the woman still fumes and occasionally bursts into expletives when recalling Estrella's alleged attempts to defraud her.

The deal in question was worth P162,000, which later ballooned to P200,000, and consisted of "engineering" work involving partitions, tiles, counters, cabinets and mirrors. She said she didn't hire Estrella to fully outfit her condo unit because she found her quotation a bit expensive.

"I really didn't want to deal with her anymore," said Hechanova. "But she managed to befriend me and eventually won my trust."

She also found the deal grossly overpriced, the quality of the materials and workmanship substandard. According to her, the wood Estrella used was of inferior quality, while the louvers aren't "user-friendly."

"That Margarita wasn't even present during the turnover," Hechanova said. "She probably didn't want me to point out how bad her work was. She hardly attended to any of my complaints, and when she did, she did so grudgingly."

Estrella, however, said that it was Hechanova who sought her services. She also denied that she missed the turnover. In fact, she said, she even had to waive her professional fees to accommodate Hechanova, who she claimed was usually short on funds.

"She was the one who came to me," said Estrella. "I have been warned about how fickle-minded that Jinky was. Imagine, after making a down payment on her unit with China Bank, she came to the bank crying the next day and demanding her money back. Still, I attended to her and accompanied her for free to select stuff."

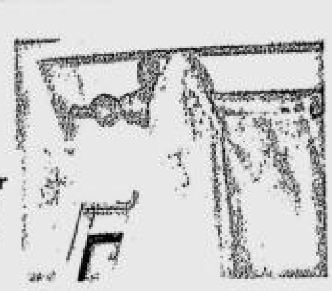
Their animosity came to a head when Estrella sued Hechanova for issuing a bounced check worth P9,000. Rather than let the case drag on and cause a drain on her purse, Hechanova agreed to settle the case by paying Estrella P20,000.

Hechanova claimed she had already paid the amount of the bounced check but made the mistake of not retrieving the bad check. So, in effect, she had reportedly paid Estrella P29,000 in all. "Up to the very end, Margarita found a way to extort money from me," said Hechanova.

Are the above cases classic examples of buyer beware? Do the complainants have no choice but to simply charge it all to experience? Or is there hope for Bonsol and Hechanova, if their complaints are indeed valid? *Abangan*!

Alex Y. Vergara

EVEN this set of complimentary glasses from various hotels was listed among the items to be paid.



BECAUSE of the rod's pointed detail, curtain cannot cover the width of the window.

THE need for adhoc wirings and connections resulted in unsightly holes and uneven paint on the walls and ceiling.

The perils of unlicensed interior-design...

From page E1

volves the health and wellbeing of its users (not to mention their hard-earned savings), its practitioners insist that certain standards need to be set in place.

"What if you designed a drop ceiling and it falls?" Morey asks. "What if you did lighting fixtures, which later cause fire? What if the furniture you designed falls apart?"

Apart from construction and designing theories, she adds, an interior designer worth her salt is expected to know which materials are poisonous, cancer-causing and biodegradable.

The interior designer then uses such information to come up with a comprehensive and cohesive design, which may include custom-built furniture pieces, lighting fixtures, ceiling treatments and even electrical connections, that best reflect the client's personality as well as needs and wants.

What's more, in an ideal world, it's only ethical for an interior designer to pass on the savings (in the form of discounts from suppliers) to her clients. She's also duty-bound to disclose every expense involved in the project, Morey adds, since the bulk of her income should come from professional fees and not from jacked-up prices of materials used in the project.

In short, there's more to interior design than merely choosing the season's hottest colors, latest designer chair and priciest curtains. Under the law (RA 8534), it's illegal for unlicensed and unregistered practitioners (including graduates of two-year certificate courses) to call themselves interior designers or to pass themselves off as such.

"At the most, graduates of certificate courses can call themselves interior decorators or stylists," says Morey.

Borne by their desire to set themselves apart as well as to protect the public from dubious and poorly trained practitioners, industry stalwarts (some of whom were also practicing architects) such as Wili Fernandez, Lor Calma, Ched Topacio, Edgar Ramirez, Tony Zamora and Mel Gana founded the Philippine Institute of Interior Design (PIID) in 1964.

Allied with architecture

PIID (tel. 8671403 to 04), led by current president Gerry Contreras, is a nonstock, non-profit organization composed of licensed and registered interior designers from all over the country. It's a counterpart organization of the United Architects of the Philippines.

"Interior design is an allied profession of architecture," says Morey, PIID's current VP for external affairs. "That's why a number of architects also dabble in interior design. But with the advent of specialization, leaders from both professions eventually saw the need to have separate boards."

As a direct result of globalization and exposure to the Internet, today's clients are also more knowledgeable when it comes to the good life, including, of course, interior design.

Morey, who helped hammer out UST's trailblazing interior design curriculum, used to belong to another group of interior designers. Her group plus another one later merged with PIID at the "request" of then First Lady Imelda Marcos.

"For all the criticisms hurled at her," says Morey, "Mrs. Marcos had vision. She convinced us to merge as one for us to gain more leverage as we deal with numerous issues involving the profession."

Apart from working to police its ranks and protect its members, PIID established a set of rules and regulations to standardize the practice of interior design. Although it works in conjunction with the interior design board, the institute is independent from it.

"We have been quite lax in seeing to it that the law is observed," Morey admits. "But from now on, we will be more vigilant if only to protect our interest as well as the public's."

As the de facto "people's representative," PIID brings cases involving malpractice and other illegal activities to the attention of the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC). Should PRC find merit in the case after a thorough investigation, it then endorses it to the Department of Justice. Once the DOJ steps in, a case that once involved private persons becomes criminal in nature.

PHILIPPINE Institute of Interior Design president Gerry Contreras, with then President Ramos and Speaker De Venecia, and colleagues give the thumbs-up during RA 8534's signing in 1998.

Grandfather's clause

One issue PIID helped to resolve was the case of interior designers in a state of professional limbo. Since the board was fairly new, its founding members came up with a so-called grandfather's clause exempting certain practitioners from taking the exams.

The board, however, can only facilitate and make recommendations. In the end, all sorts of exemptions are subject to PRC's scrutiny.

"Graduates of interior design who were unable to take the board, but have been practicing 10 years prior to the law's approval in 1998 may apply for an exemption," said Morey.

Licensed and registered architects who doubled as interior designers within the same time frame are also eligible to apply for exemptions. Conrad Onglao and architecture board chair Armando Alli are two such examples. Those who failed or didn't take the architecture board, however, would have to first take 60 academic units of interior design before they could even dream of availing themselves of the exemption. The same condition applies to practitioners who took up courses other than interior design in college.

Two of the most prominent beneficiaries of the grandfather's clause are Ivy Almario and Tessa Prieto-Valdes, both UST interior design graduates. Almario left for the US and came back a few years ago to resume her practice here.

Certain high flyers like Anton R. Mendoza and Anton G. Mendoza are working on their exemptions, says Marcelo Alonzo, PIID's executive director for professional practice.

He singled out actress Carmi Martin, whose works have lately been featured on TV and in print. "Although Martin graduated with a certificate in interior design at the Philippine School of Interior Design," says Alonzo, "she has yet to earn the right to call herself an interior designer."

Those believed to be practicing interior design without a license, based on a list that PIID has provided this paper, include Jonathan Matti, Cynthia Almario, Anna Maria Sy, Kristine Ileto, Ito Kish, Michelle Illustre, Francisco Sakay Jr., Precy Gutierrez, Cocoy Cordova, William Ramirez, Dina delos Reyes, Patricia Ocampo, Marge Estrella, Jose Yupangco and Eduardo Calma.

"Until they're given an exemption or take and pass the board," adds Morey, "people who call themselves interior designers are in clear violation of the law."

It's easy to understand why many unlicensed and unregistered practitioners are practicing illegally or would want to avail themselves of the grandfather's clause. Over the last nine years, the three-day board exam given to aspiring interior designers has had a mortality rate of 50-52 percent. Indeed, the number of casualties is nearly as "lethal" as the exams given to architects.

"It's like doing an actual project that entails three to six months and squeezing it into eight hours," says Alonzo, a zoology graduate who later took up interior design. He took and passed the interior design board in 2001.

But even such exemptions may have to come to an end. Both Morey and Alonzo decline to reveal when exactly the grandfather's clause will cease to take effect.

"Very soon," says Alonzo. "If I were them, I'd grab the opportunity to apply for an exemption now."

Foreigners

Interior design graduates from foreign schools, on the other hand, have to submit their transcript of records to the Commission on Higher Education for evaluation. If the subjects they took abroad more or less match those being taught here, then they may be allowed to take the board exams.

Just like in the practice of architecture, foreigners who wish to practice interior design here may do so as long as the countries they come from have reciprocity agreements with the Philippines. In other words, Filipinos should be accorded the same treatment if they choose to practice interior design in those countries.

But if these foreigners choose to practice in the Philippines for an indefinite period of time (as in forever), then it's only right they take the board.

Again, no one has officially died due to a grossly painted wall or a poorly configured room, but try to imagine yourself being confined to such a space (that you yourself paid for!) day in and day out. It could mean a slow though far from painless death by torture—visual and psychological—all because of the work of a clueless or unethical "interior designer."

AVENUE Q directors Chari Arespacochaga and Bobby Garcia with young stars KC Concepcion and Jolina Magdangal

Taking our . . .

From page E4

MARIA Ressa, Girlie Rodis and Cheche Lazaro

RAMON and Didi Agustines and Avenue Q's Felix Rivera

HANS Sicat, Sandie Poblador and Sigfrid Karlsson of Nokia

Graces Fair Trade Foundation, my big-hearted sister, **Sandy Romualdez**, hosted an elegant fund-raising dinner with the impeccable catering service of the Mandarin and flowing champagne by Möet Henessy.

To wonderfully present the products offered by G & G (check details at www.giftsandgraces.com or e-mail info@giftsandgraces.com), an artistic showcase was displayed at the main hall of the Romualdez residence featuring all the proudly Pinoy products made by various livelihood communities.

G & G supports artisans and marginalized groups primarily by providing design input to make their products more salable so they can attract more individuals and companies. I personally believe that buying products that support livelihood groups is always great karma.

Being pleasantly tipsy with the bottomless Dom Perignon, I started surveying the fantastic silent auction items generously donated by renowned artists and gracious friends. Throughout the sumptuous sit-down dinner, styled by the artistic and classy **Teyet Pascual**, eager guests were milling around protecting their bids.

With acute attention to detail, the menu and place cards were creatively printed on little mother-of-pearl shells laid on top of blue-and-white, elegant plates. **Anton Barretto** and **Leica Carpo** were also tapped to display the wonderful mix of auctioned items.

G & G directors **Vicki Garchitorena, Mariles Gustilo, Marge Barro, Marivic Limcaoco** and **Jay Bernardo**, along with Sandy, were all there in full force.

Among the donated items were a Bali Bulgari Resort Package, a Kenneth Cobonpue mirror, a Chiquita stool and a weekend at the Farm at San Benito. Thanks to my tips, my husband Dennis successfully bid on a nowhere-to-be-found Nokia E90 Communicator, donated through **Nikka Abes** of Nokia.

The auction was a total success! Many priceless artworks were auctioned off, accounting for over half of the funds raised for a grateful G & G. There was even a painting from former President **Cory Aquino**. Among the most popular auction items were sports lessons courtesy of champions like **Efren Reyes** for billiards, **Paeng Nepomuceno** for bowling and **Abe Rosal** for golf.

I was more than happy to win a Rajo Laurel Ensemble, an exotic cuff from **Wynnwynn Ong**, a beautiful Celestina minaudiere and a dinner for 10 by Chef **Ed Quimson**. My only disappointment was losing the **Ryan Cayabyab** singing lessons that I badly need at this time, as the competition heats up on "Celebrity Duets."

'Avenue Q'

The tension is really building up on that show, so to defuse it all, Dennis and I recently caught Atlantis Production's staging of "Avenue Q" at the **Carlos P. Romulo** Auditorium at the RCBC Plaza in Makati. It is an absolutely hilarious show with performers and puppets sharing the same stage. For mature audiences only, the Tony Award-winning, Broadway musical has crazy, sex-driven furry monsters and Sesame Street-like characters dealing with relationships, commitment and their purpose in life. Dynamic actress **Rachel Alejandro** is awesome as both the leading puppet, Kate Monster, and the sexy puppet, Lucy T. Slut.

Directed by **Bobby Garcia** and **Chari Arespacochaga**, "Avenue Q" is showing today at 3 p.m. and only runs until next weekend. Imagine "Rent" mixed with Sesame Street and you get a truly original and clever musical comedy. For tickets, call Atlantis Productions (8927078) or Ticketworld (8919999).

A great way to cap off this weekend is to catch the final episode of Be Bench/ The Model Search on ABS-CBN at 10:30 tonight. Get to see model wannabes take off their neckties... and more! Big dreams truly do become reality to those who have enough desire.

E-mail me at seaprincess@inquirer.com.ph.

LONG-TIME friends Matthew and Laurie Westfall, Kit Zobel and Anton San Diego

TALENTED family. Hajji Alejandro with daughters Rachel and Barni, and Lola Nena Alejandro

GENEROUS couple Mila and Ed Lacson

NOEL Manapat, Ariel Lozada, Lulu Tan Gan, Romina Urra-Gonzalez

DESIGNER Patrice Ramos-Diaz and Bench president Ver Lim

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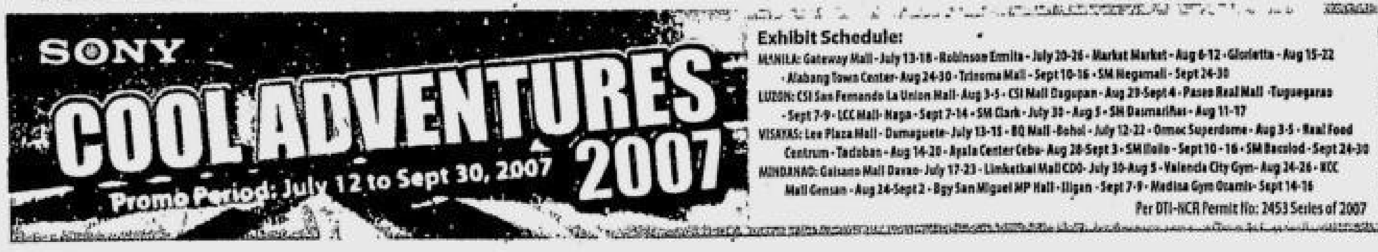

Exhibit Schedule:
MANILA: Gateway Mall - July 13-18 - Robinson Ermita - July 20-26 - Market Market - Aug 6-12 - Glorietta - Aug 15-22 - Alabang Town Center - Aug 24-30 - Trinoma Mall - Sept 10-16 - SM Megamall - Sept 24-30
LUZON: CSI San Fernando La Union Mall - Aug 3-5 - CSI Mall Dagupan - Aug 29-Sept 4 - Paseo Real Mall - Tuguegarao - Sept 7-9 - LCC Mall - Naga - Sept 7-14 - SM Clark - July 30 - Aug 5 - SM Dasmariñas - Aug 11-17
VISAYAS: Lee Plaza Mall - Dumaguete - July 13-15 - BQ Mall - Bohol - July 12-22 - Ormoc Superdome - Aug 3-5 - Real Food Centrum - Tacloban - Aug 14-20 - Ayala Center Cebu - Aug 28-Sept 3 - SM Iloilo - Sept 10-16 - SM Bacolod - Sept 24-30
MINDANAO: Gaisano Mall Davao - July 17-23 - Limketkai Mall CDO - July 30-Aug 5 - Valencia City Gym - Aug 24-26 - KCC Mall Gensan - Aug 24-Sept 2 - Bgy San Miguel MP Hall - Iligan - Sept 7-9 - Medina Gym Ozamis - Sept 14-16
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TOP photographer Jun de Leon, Ben Chan, Richard and Lucy Gomez

BE Bench/ The Model Search contestants in the Big Dome

Taking our necktie off, letting our hair down

TESSA!
Tessa Prieto-Valdes

THE CITY'S PRIMARY BUSINESS hotel, Mandarin Oriental, has been taking its necktie off, so to speak. Its new, hip after-office demeanor adds a revitalized aura to the classy location, formerly best known for its annual Chinese New Year celebration.

With the opening of uber-trendy Martinis Bar, a neighbor of the cigar aficionado's hangout, Kipling's Whiskey Bar, the hotel has moved up the cosmopolitan nightlife ladder. Aside from the widest selection of martinis and whiskeys from all over the world, the two bars are havens for the legal vice of smoking.

The Mandarin's management appears to be on a roll, as they are now focusing on food-and-wine events for the gastronomes of the city. On Sept. 18, the Mid-Autumn Festival of the Chaine des Rotisseurs Balliage de Manille hosts cocktails and a five-course dinner at the ballroom, punctuated by Chinese dances and music. The Mandarin's in-house geomancer, **Joseph Chau**, officiates a lantern ceremony, sharing some lucky forecasts for the rest of the year.

More auspicious blessings will flow at the Mid-Autumn Festival "Sheung Yuet" on Sept. 23. From the Captain's Bar to Tin Hau Restaurant, the Mandarin will be busy offering different varieties of mooncakes to welcome this important holiday.

For the gourmets and gourmands, there are two seven-course dinners with unlimited glasses of exquisite wines. For Sept. 20, the Tivoli Restaurant has prepared "A Night of Californian Wines," a special dinner hosted by Wine Depot and featuring wines from the finest California vineyards. Guest wine master **Angus Lilley** will be flying in from California. Reservations at The Tivoli are recommended (tel. 7508888).

Eight days later, a "Night of Wine and Fine Dining" debuts, featuring a dinner menu of *foie gras* and mushrooms paired with four superb wines and champagne from Le Cellier Wines. A full list of events are at www.mandarinoriental.com/manila.

PDI family. Letty Magsanoc and Marixi Prieto with Teyet Pascual

Gifts and Graces gig

The Mandarin Oriental Hotel has indeed reinvented itself. For the launch of the Gifts and

GIFTS & Graces directors Marivic Limcaoco, Vicki Garchitorena, Mariles Gustilo, Sandy Romualdez, Marge Barro, exec. director Greg Perez and accountant Camille Aragona

G & G host Philip Romualdez, Rina Ortiz and chef Ed Quimson

STAGE actresses Cris Villonco and Ana Bitong

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ABA, May Baby sa LooB NG Tiyan Ni MoMMY!
(Wow, There's a Baby in Mommy's Tummy!)
Luis P. Gatmaitan, M.D.

ROOTS AND WINGS

Cathy Babao-Guballa

Dealing with grave illness or death in the family

When a family member falls seriously ill, children are aware that something is wrong but no adult takes the time to explain things to them

ONE OF THE MOST DIFFICULT TASKS I have ever had as a parent was to tell my daughter about her younger brother's illness.

Pia was only 7 when we had to take Migi to the hospital so he could undergo open-heart surgery. It was not easy explaining in 7-year-old terms what the procedure would be all about. When Migi slipped into a coma, we were then tasked to explain his situation to his sister.

But how do you make a 7-year-old mind fathom the depths and gravity of such a situation? It was heartbreaking to hear her ask each time, "Is he awake yet?" Yet, no matter how difficult, you have the responsibility to try to make your child understand the situation.

When a family member falls ill, be it a parent, a grandparent or a sibling, the children often become what psychologists call, "shadow children." These children are fully aware that there is something serious taking place, but no one has taken the time to explain the situation to them perhaps out of fear of saying the wrong things, or simply an inadequacy to explain what is taking place. As a result, children become depressed, confused, stressed and neglected.

Telling a child the truth is not an easy task. But more often than not, they are able to cope better, when they know what is going on with the beloved who is ill and they more or less know what to expect. A certain amount of information, enough for their minds to comprehend will empower them. Later on, as they grow, they will ask more questions. As they hurdle each developmental stage, expect the issues to come up time and again during family discussions.

Here are helpful ways to talk to your children when a family member is ill:

1. Take the child aside and honestly say that you do not know the answers to all the questions. Find out what the child knows about the situation to assess her knowledge and capability for handling what you are about to disclose.

2. Explain things as they go and progress. Don't unload everything in one go as it may be too much for the child to handle. You can give small daily updates on what is taking place. For example, you can explain a CT scan by saying that they are going to "take photographs of his head to see if there are any wounds or injuries." A child who knows what is going on feels more secure than a child who is kept completely in the dark. Assure the child that the illness is no one's fault.

3. Try to observe your other children for signs that they are under stress. Misbehavior or extremely good behavior may mean that there are some issues that need to be discussed.

4. Request a family member who is a doctor or a nurse to be present when you first tell your child about the illness. The child will usually have all sorts of questions that a health practitioner can answer.

5. Tell your child's teacher about the situation at home so that he can look out for signs that your child is troubled. Especially in cases of chronic or life-threatening illnesses, it is very important that there be close coordination between school and home. Some children may be especially close to their *lolo* or *lola* and will need special guidance when the grandparent falls seriously ill.

6. Tell the truth as far as you are able, difficult as it may be. If the patient may pass away, you can indicate that possibility to the child in order to prepare him. At the same time, assure the child that no matter what happens, he will be loved and kept safe. Depending upon your religious beliefs, you may opt to talk about heaven as a place where there is no pain and where one day we will all be reunited with our loved ones.

Books for the journey

I have always been a huge fan of Palanca Hall of Fame awardee Dr. Luis Gatmaitan and his books for children, especially those that belong in the "Mga Kwento Ni Tito Dok" series. This beloved and well-written series tackles various illnesses and health issues in a child-friendly and engaging manner.

A couple of years ago, I read "Aba! May Baby Sa Loob Ng Tiyan Ni Mommy" ("Wow! There's a Baby In Mommy's Tummy!") to my son's first-grade class. The usually rowdy 7-year-old boys, sat in rapt attention as the book explained X and Y chromosomes and how baby boys and girls came to be. I also read "Oops, Kumukulo Ang Tiyan Ni Jimbo!" ("Ooooppss, Jimbo's Tummy is Churning!") a funny story about LBM.

To date there are 14 wonderful books in the series, tackling topics such as sore eyes, chicken pox, tonsillitis, dog bites, hair lice, tooth decay and fractures among many others. Gatmaitan who is a pediatrician by profession, is a truly gifted writer and parents are blessed to have his books to help explain away childhood illnesses.

My husband and I will be conducting a special Griefshare session on "Understanding A Child's Grief" on Sept. 24, 6:30 p.m. at the Greenhills Christian Fellowship Church in Ortigas. The two-hour session will be especially helpful to families who have children between the ages of 5-18 who have experienced loss through death, to educators or to anyone who is interested in helping grieving children. There is no fee. Call Cora Lagda at 632-1354 to 56 or e-mail griefisajourney@gmail.com to register.

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Ways of education

An education festival showcases the various methods, success stories and perspectives to improve education

By Queena N. Lee-Chua

LET ME READ AN EXCERPT from the Philippine Independence movement of the 1890s," said Felice P. Sta. Maria, Unesco commission chair for the social and human sciences. The passage shows why Filipinos wanted to manage their future themselves. Translated into English, the excerpt reads:

"The fruits of the struggle are the following:

"Lessened is the arrogance of the educated,

"Lessened is the cruelty of the strong,

"Lessened will be the ignorant,

"And increased is the beautiful radiance of the world

"Because the minds of the majority are open."

"We were to lead a life of—and I use the words of Katipunan leader Andres Bonifacio—*katwiran* (reason and truth) in order to protect *kalayaan* (freedom), so that all our people might enjoy *buong kaginhawaan* (full contentment)," Sta. Maria continued. "Not just material contentment but full, responsible human development, a complete celebration of being. As promoted by Unesco, education similarly advocates goal-oriented literacy to lift people out of poverty and to help maximize civilization."

Schools of the people

Education is a key means to achieve the aims of our country's founders. The Karunungan (Knowledge) Festival held last July at the Ateneo de Manila University showcased the various educational methodologies, success stories and perspectives from different sectors and walks of life. "With Schools of the People as its theme, the festival celebrated the educational aspirations of our people for the 21st century," said conference chair Rainier A. Ibana of the Ateneo Philosophy Department.

"Schools of the People, as a philosophy of education, was a creative response to the necessity of transforming our educational institutions through the collective will of the stakeholders that constitute our schools," Ibana continued. Stakeholders include government, private sector, academe, parents, students, community.

According to Education Secretary Jesli Lapus, 88 percent of our student population (17.31 million) are enrolled in more than 40,000 public schools. "With over half a million employees and a payroll of over P100 billion each year, the DepEd is our largest bureaucracy," Lapus stressed. "As a professional manager, I will tell you that this is not child's play."

But DepEd has had its successes. Funding for basic education has increased, together with funds to repair typhoon-damaged schools. The Adopt-a-School Program was re-launched, with the private sector pitching in to help public schools. DepEd also laid the groundwork for effective School-Based Management and a stronger Technical-Vocational Program.

Success stories

However, by far the most inspiring successes came from unlikely places. "The most well-received presentations were the success stories of the least-endowed places," Ibana reported, "where people defied the odds stacked against them and even surpassed expectations by dramatically improving the performance of their students."

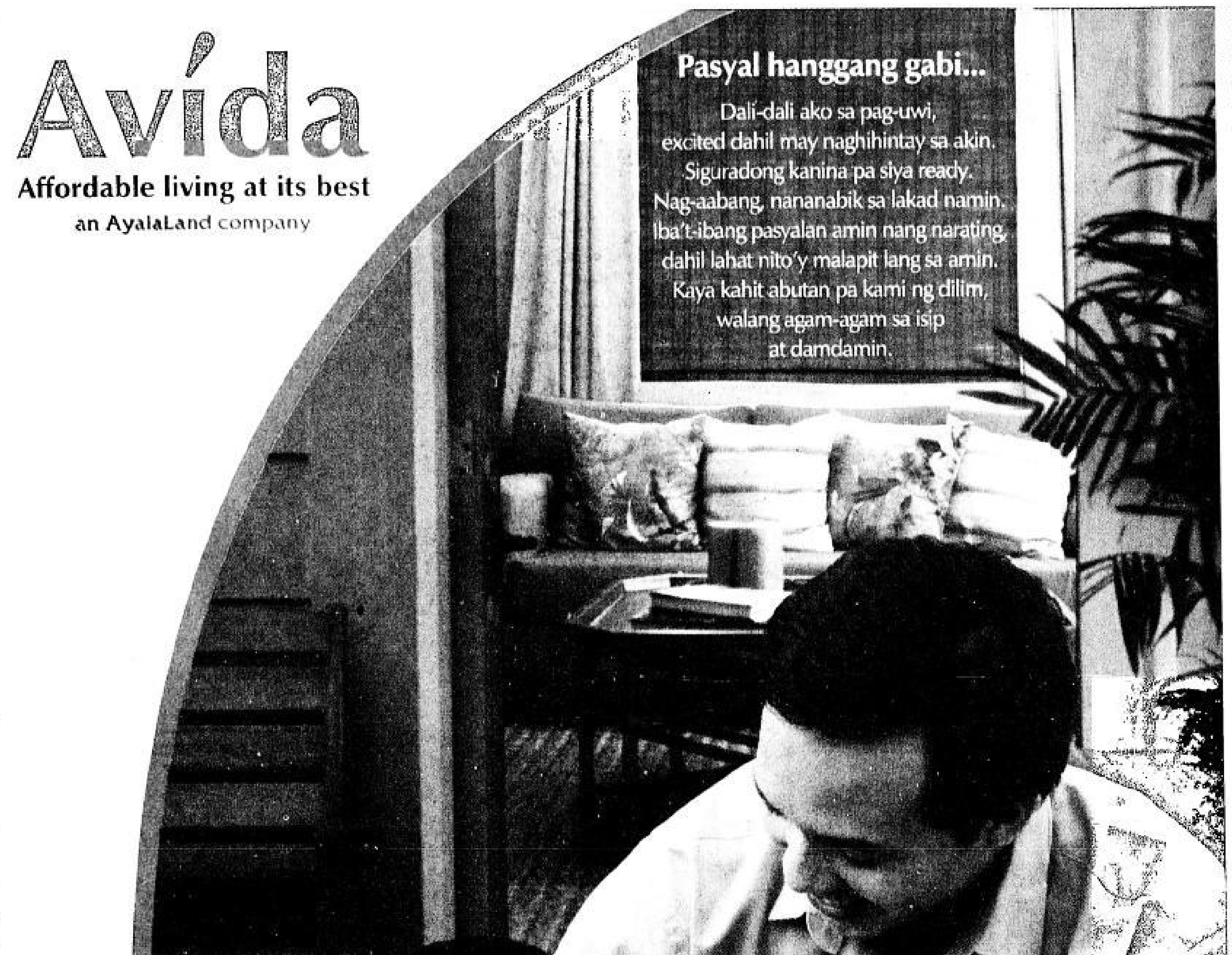
For instance, educator Benjamin Caling of Payatas, QC, talked about how dynamic principals made it possible for Lupang Pangako to become one of the top 10 schools in Quezon City within four years, after being near the bottom of 96 schools in the past. Teacher Marilou Juanitas of Barbaza, Antique, discussed how to transform "the culture of indifference" so that despite having many non-reading and non-numerate students in the past, with three years, Bahoyan-Yapo Multigrade School topped their division. Educator Monica Sison of Sta. Catalina, Negros Oriental, described how Avocado Elementary School partnered with parents and alumni so that within 10 years, it grew from two roofless classrooms to an institution offering high-school and vocational courses. Teacher Josephine Tam of Kiangan, Ifugao, described how teachers created indigenous teaching materials and, within five years, helped Kiangan Central School hurdle its dismal test scores and become one of the top five schools in the country today.

"The secret lies in the ingenious strategies of principals, the creative approaches of teachers, and the dynamic support of communities," Ibana concluded. "The heroic acts rendered by school heads awakened the dormant social capital among our people. The Governance of Basic Education Act of 2001 and the Local Government Code empowered them to overcome challenges, such as the aftereffects of an insurgency, the stench of garbage, and the lack of learning materials and facilities."

"Principals were emboldened by these new laws to solve local problems at the school level," Ibana continued. "At the end of the conference, many participants, including a barangay captain and a university professor, expressed their desire to also become principals because of the tremendous effect that they had made not only on their schools but also on their surrounding communities."

Education in the Philippines is faced with huge problems, but there is reason for hope. "The Karunungan Festival has indeed been a fiesta, a day of *fe* (faith)," Sta. Maria said. "It is a celebration of the faith we have in education and the faith we have in ourselves individually and collectively that rings hope. We look forward to an education that will make the Katipunan's *buong kaginhawaan* reality at last."

For more information on the Karunungan Festival, e-mail Rainier Ibana at ribana@ateneo.edu.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CEBU CEBU
Jaime Picornell

Cebu welcomes home renowned pianist

AIMA LABRA MAKK WAS born in Cebu in 1965 and started piano lessons at the age of three with her mother, Aida Briones Labra. She committed herself to piano in her teens and earned a Bachelor of Music degree from the University of the Philippines.

In 1985, Aima topped the National Music Competition for Young Artists (NAMCYA)-piano category C. No one has won the award since.

Aima then went to the University of Music and Dramatic Arts in Graz, Austria, obtaining grants and scholarships.

By 1989, she began performing in recitals, radio and television recordings, and doing concert tours.

She got her Concert Diplomate from the university in 1990 with highest honors. She made her debut in the United States in 2001, getting a standing ovation in Washington DC, her first stop, and in Chicago, Los Angeles, Tennessee, and Dallas.

Today, Aima performs with equal ease in grand concert stages of Europe as well as in small rural communities.

She is active as a chamber musician, collaborating with husband Nikolaus Makk, an accomplished cellist, and their friend, clarinetist Peter Forcher. Their ensemble is called "Tonstrom." Aima also plays piano duo recitals with good friend Janna Polyzoides.

She teaches at the University of Music in Graz, selecting extremely gifted children from different parts of the world through rigorous auditions. All her students have won national and international competitions.

She also gives master classes all over the world.

Aima and Nikolaus, with two lovely cats, live in the peaceful village of Obersheutlen in Austria.

Aima was in Cebu recently for a recital at the SM City Cebu's Theater One. It was presented by the Arts Council and the alumnae of St. Theresa's College. Guests were welcomed by council president Petite Garcia, event chair Marissa Fernan and trustee Teresin Mendezona.

By the interval, the audience had already decided the performance was "faultless" and true to what the harshest European critics said about Aima—that she played brilliantly, with perfect technique, passionate feeling and seemingly effortless ease.

A widescreen onstage gave concert notes and presented a video about the composers and the piece. Though it made the show longer, it let people enjoy the music without having to glance at the printed program or turn pages.

Aima's repertoire consisted of two sonatas by Scarlatti; the 18-point "Davidbundlertanze" by Schumann; Rachmaninoff's "Etudes Tableaux" (nine short masterpieces); and Prokofiev's Sonata No. 3 from "Old Notebooks."

Now, everyone is asking, "When is Aima coming back?" The same question is being asked about Ingrid Sala Santamaria, Cebu's pride, who, with Reynaldo Reyes, performed at the Marcelo Fernan Press Center that has two of the best-maintained grand pianos.

Ingrid and Reynaldo were in the course of their 14th "Romantic Piano Concert Journey." They performed Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No. 1 and Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No. 3.

The following day they played for elementary and high-school students of the Mandaue City School for the Arts and were overwhelmed by the enthusiastic reception they got.

Ingrid and Reynaldo started these concert tours in 2003, explaining to audiences what music from the Romantic era was all about, with insights about the composers, their works, and a whole scope of pertinent information.

They have been all over the Philippines and traveled to Jakarta, Indonesia; Bangkok, Thailand; Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; and California, USA.

Their 14th journey began in June in Kuala Lumpur with a master class and concert at the University of Malaysia. There was also a recital at the home of German Ambassador Herbert Jess, who was previously posted in Manila, and his wife Micheline.

AIMA Labra Makk gets a bouquet of flowers from SM City Cebu's Marissa Fernan (right) after a brilliant performance.

IN KUALA Lumpur at the German ambassador's residence: Ambassador Herbert Jess, Melissa Lecaros, pianists Ingrid Sala Santamaria and Reynaldo Reyes, Micheline Jess, and Philippine Ambassador to Malaysia Victoriano Lecaros

They started their Philippine trek at the home of German Ambassador Axel Weishaupt in Dasmariñas Village, Makati City.

They performed almost daily in Manila and environs before they went to the Visayas, covering, aside from Cebu, Dumaguete, Negros Oriental; and Bacolod, Silay and Murcia in Negros Occidental.

They concluded the tour at the Ateneo de Manila University where they got a standing ovation for the Tchaikovsky Piano Concerto No. 1, which is fast becoming their signature piece. Ingrid came to Cebu for a breather, though as full of enthusiasm as ever. She and Reynaldo are now mapping out their 15th journey that begins in January.

"The interaction during the open forum after our performances is the best part," said Ingrid. Musicians and non-musicians asked candid questions, wanting to know more about piano-playing, interpretation of compositions and hours needed for practice, she said. They also asked about inspiration and whether one could start a career as a piano-player at 5 or 50.

Reynaldo never fails to inject the scientific fact that listening to classical music, in contrast to the ear-splitting rock music, enhances intelligence, specially in young people. "Classical music produces more brain cells—neurons—and that makes people more intelligent," he says.

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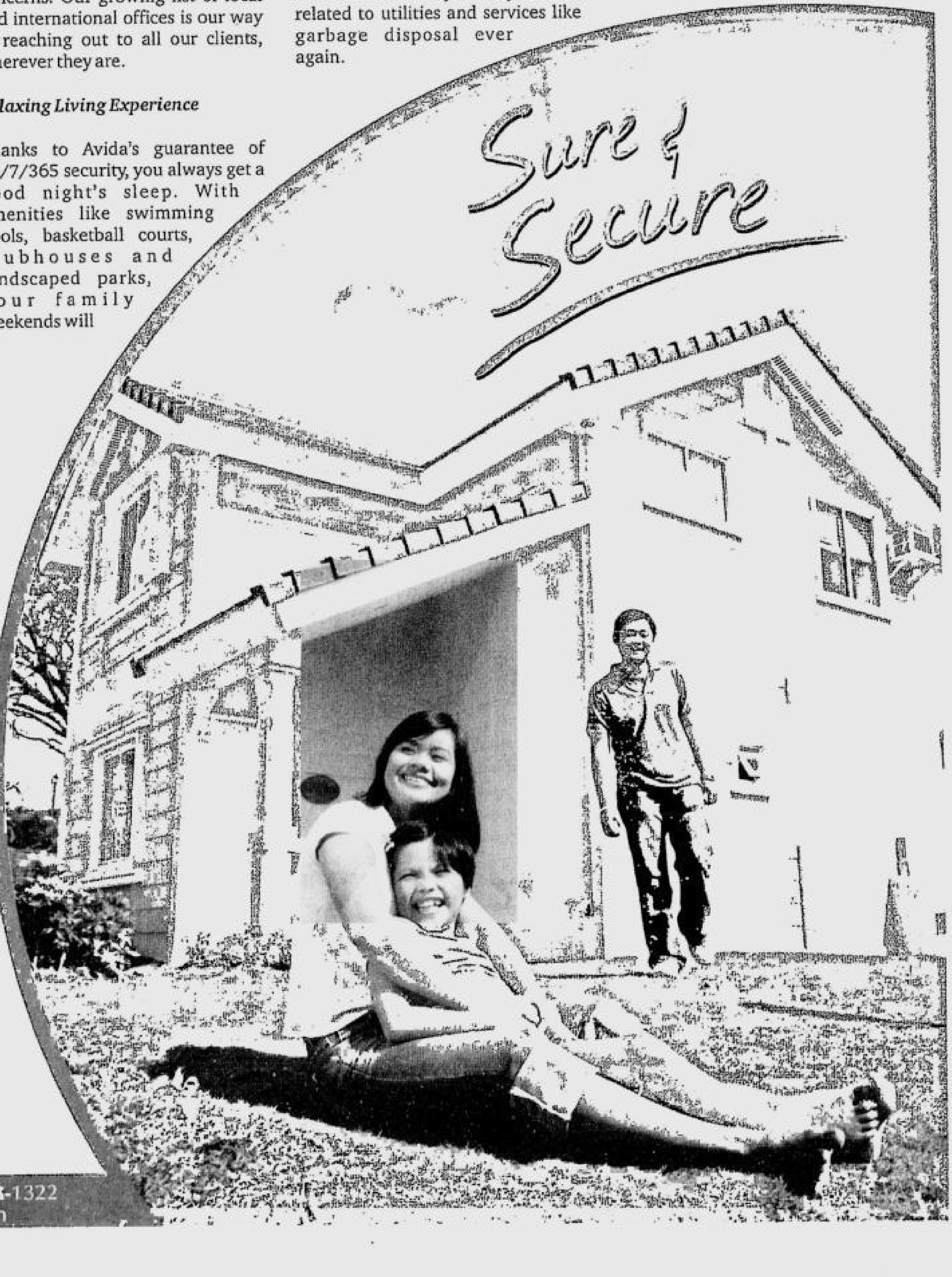

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ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Emmie G. Velarde

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ALL SMILES at the Gawad Urian night on Thursday are big winners (top photo, from left) Rafael Rossell, Best Supporting Actor; Mark Gil and Rustom Padilla, Best Actors; Gina Pareño, Best Actress; Marichu Vera-Perez Maceda, Natatanging Gawad recipient. Left, presenter Robin Padilla, last year's Best Actor; above left, Cherry Pie Picache and Jiro Manio; above right, Jeffrey Jeturian, Best Director. ROMY HOMILLADA

FIRST Idol champ Mau Marcelo flanked by runners-up Jan Nieto, left, and Gian Magdangal. RUDY ESPERAS

GMA 7 bags RP 'Idol'

Franchise holder says it is 'very fortunate' to find a new partner

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

IT'S OFFICIAL.

"Philippine Idol's" season 2 will be aired on GMA 7, according to Geraldine Bravo, director of Marketing and Sales for FremantleMedia, "Idol" franchise holder.

"We are very fortunate to find a new partner to produce 'Philippine Idol,'" said Bravo in an official statement sent to INQUIRER Entertainment on Friday.

The first season of the reality singing contest was aired by ABC 5 last year.

ABC 5 earlier insisted that it was still "deep in discussions with Fremantle and … barring any major glitch … [we will] still mount the second season."

Sought to comment on the new development, ABC 5, through senior vice president for Corporate Affairs Terra Daffon, said, "ABC 5 is still waiting for official word from Fremantle."

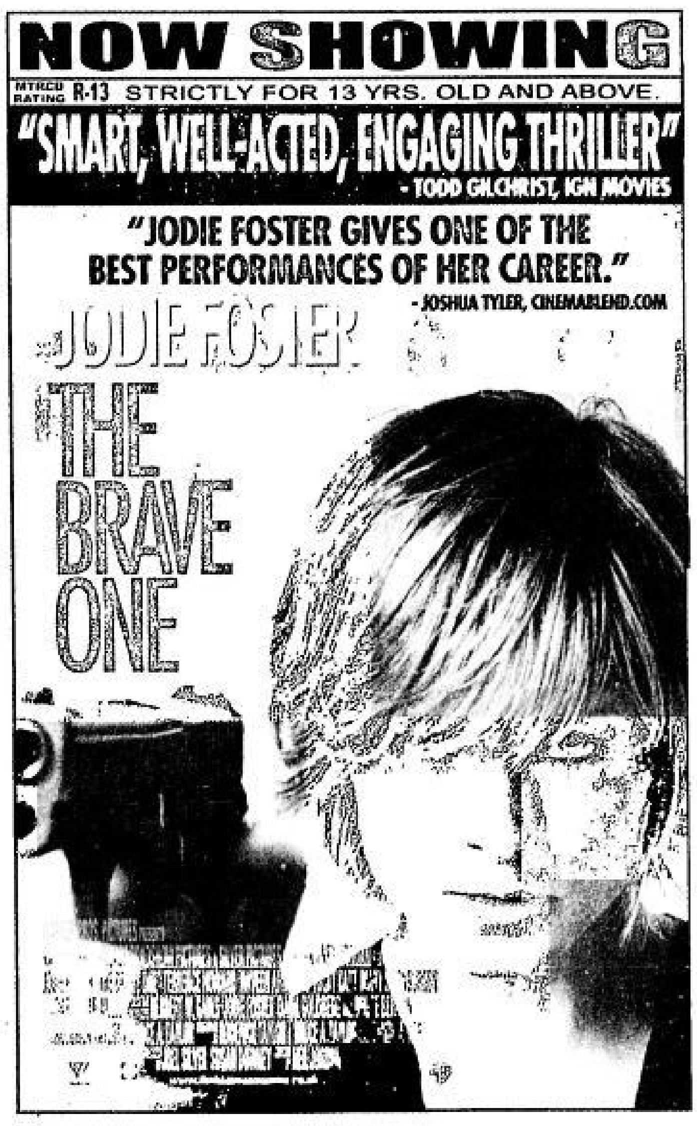
Bravo's formal announcement, however, sealed the deal with GMA 7. "It is our intention to make [RP 'Idol'] the biggest show the Philippines has ever seen," Bravo said.

According to various sources, the show's target launch is February 2008.

An insider told the INQUIRER on Wednesday that GMA 7 had bagged the show as of Tuesday night.

The source claimed that GMA 7 would

GMA/ G2



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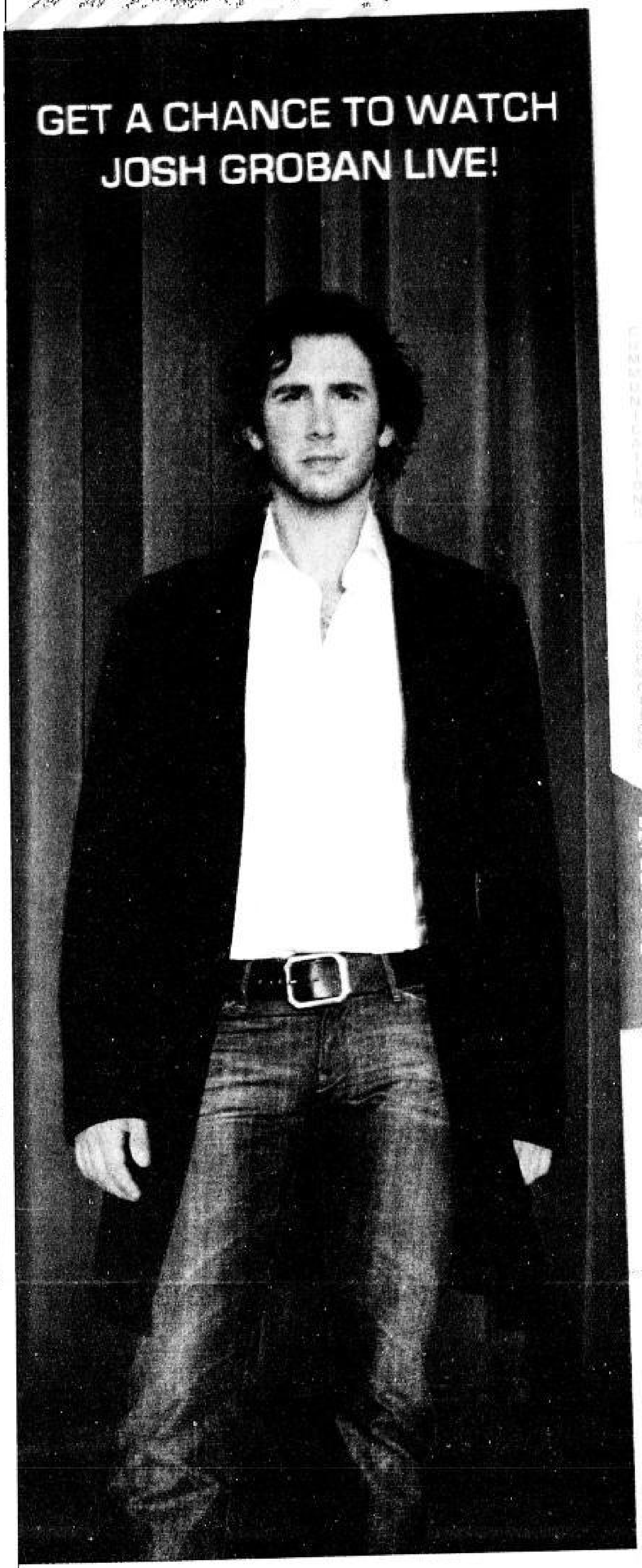

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WITH VANESSA HUD-
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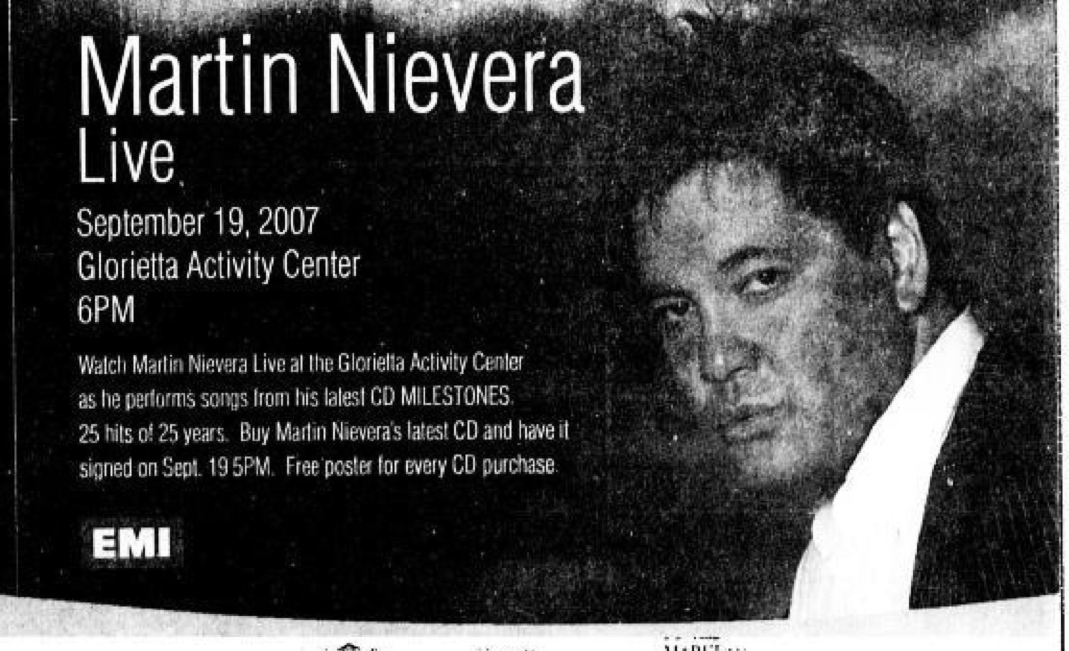
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VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

Big breaks are great, but the real challenge is to sustain success

popular for decades, before shifting his focus to directing.

Jane Fonda hit it big with "Tall Story" and "Barbarella" went on to win a slew of awards, and is still making the screen sizzle ("Mother-In-Law").

Stardom came to **Robert DeNiro** after "Mean Streets" and "Taxi Driver," where he firmly established his "dark and dangerous" cinematic persona, before he opted for the brighter and blither roles he essays today.

Parallel career

DITTO for **Jack Nicholson** who went the spaced-out "Easy Rider" route before he expanded his personal gallery of movie rogues to include his recent outings as middle-aged lotharios and downright DOMs.

Barbara Streisand's "Funny Girl" and "The Way We Were" were her tickets to long-running fame and fortune, and her parallel career as director has been a distinguished one, as well.

Of more recent vintage is **Reese Witherspoon**, whose career was greatly enhanced by her delightful star-making turn in "Legally Blonde."

As a young-adult lead, former star **Elijah Wood** was "made" by the "Lord of the Rings" trilogy, and **Daniel Radcliffe** has been given the best serial stellar showcase of them all by the "Harry Potter" film franchise.

That's a new development. Before, stars were launched by singular movie vehicles, but now, it takes a trilogy or a sextet of sequels to do the trick.

WILL Mr C stay?

IS Regine coming in?

GMA 7 bags 'RP Idol'

From page G1

treat its RP "Idol" as a totally new show, independent of the first season—meaning, Mau Marcelo would not be considered the first winner.

But another informant said, "Fremantle should be the one to make such decisions."

Wilma Galvante, GMA 7 senior vice president for Entertainment TV, said, "As far as we are concerned, this is our first partnership with Fremantle for the 'Idol' franchise."

Bravo's announcement, Galvante added, merely "means that [both parties] have agreed that GMA 7 has the experience, resources and people to mount talent-search programs [like 'Idol']."

In the statement, Bravo said there was no problem in finding talented singers in the Philippines. "The challenge is to keep the show interesting, by providing the viewers with an insight into the journeys that the singers are [taking]."

Galvante agreed: "That's the essence of the 'Idol' franchise." However, she declined to comment on ABC 5's status. "That's between ABC 5 and the people it was talking to in Fremantle."

According to Bravo's statement, "Fremantle has taken into consideration several parties to be the possible home of [RP 'Idol']." The statement reiterated that Fremantle considered GMA 7 as "an excellent partner ... having licensed other [Fremantle] shows like 'Celebrity Duets,' 'Whammy,' and 'Family Feud.'"

One source said Regine Velasquez was being eyed as new 'Idol' host; another claimed that Ryan Agoncillo and Ryan Cayabyab would be retained as host and judge, respectively. "It's too early to go into such details," said Galvante.

Another question is whether Marcelo would compete in "Asian Idol" in November. According to a source, it was still undecided whether GMA 7 would participate in "Asian Idol" or whether record label Sony-BMG would field Marcelo in the regional contest in Jakarta.

Quite tellingly, Jan Nieto, Marcelo's runner-up on Idol, is also signing up with GMA 7.

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ITEM 9 - CONDO UNIT
Floor Area 28.00 sqm
Aegina # 2102 Unit # 2 Europa Mines View Condo Villas, Gibraltar Road, Baguio City
Market Value 756,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 718,000.00

ITEM 10 - CONDO UNIT
Floor Area 28.00 sqm.
Aegina # 1102, Unit # 2 Europa Mines View Condo Villas, Gibraltar Road, Baguio City
Market Value 756,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 718,000.00

ITEM 11 - CONDO UNIT
Floor Area 28.00 sqm
Aegina # 1110, Unit # 10 Europa Mines View Condo Villas, Gibraltar Road, Baguio City
Market Value 756,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 718,000.00

ITEM 12 - CONDO UNIT
Floor Area 28.00 sqm
Helmond # 2104, Unit # 4 Europa Mines View Condo Villas, Gibraltar Road, Baguio City
Market Value 756,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 718,000.00

ITEM 13 - CONDO UNIT
Floor Area 28.00 sqm
Helmond # 2109, Unit # 9 Europa Mines View Condo Villas, Gibraltar Road, Baguio City
Market Value 756,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 718,000.00

ITEM 14 - CONDO UNIT
Floor Area 28.00 sqm
Aegina # 2111, Unit # 11 Europa Mines View Condo Villas, Gibraltar Road, Baguio City
Market Value 756,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 718,000.00

ITEM 15 - CONDO UNIT
Floor Area 31.00 sqm
Cannes # 2211 Unit # 11 Europa Mines View Condo Villas, Gibraltar Road, Baguio City
Market Value 837,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 795,000.00

ITEM 17 - CONDO UNIT
Floor Area 30.00 sqm
Turin # 1101, Unit # 1 Europa Mines View Condo Villas, Gibraltar Road Baguio City
Market Value 810,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 770,000.00

ITEM 18 - CONDO UNIT
Floor Area 30.00 sqm
Turin # 2101, Unit # 1 Europa Mines View Condo Villas, Gibraltar Road Baguio City
Market Value 810,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 770,000.00

ITEM 19 - CONDO UNIT
Floor Area 31.00 sqm
Cannes # 1103 Unit # 3 Europa Mines View Condo Villas, Gibraltar Road, Baguio City
Market Value 837,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 795,000.00

ITEM 20 - CONDO UNIT
Floor Area 31.00 sqm.
Cannes # 1109, Unit # 9 Europa Mines View Condo Villas, Gibraltar Road, Baguio City
Market Value 837,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 795,000.00

ITEM 21 - CONDO UNIT
Floor Area 31.00 sqm
Cannes # 2103 Unit # 3 Europa Mines View Condo Villas, Gibraltar Road, Baguio City
Market Value 837,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 795,000.00

ITEM 22 - CONDO UNIT
Floor Area 31.00 sqm
Cannes # 2110, Unit # 10 Europa Mines View Condo Villas, Gibraltar Road, Baguio City
Market Value 837,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 795,000.00

ITEM 23 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 219.00 sqm
Lot 17 Blk 14 Greensummerville Bakakeng Norte, Baguio City
Market Value 438,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 416,000.00

ITEM 24 - CONDO UNIT
Floor Area 67.00 sqm.
Innsbruck # 2213, Unit # 13 Europa Mines View Condo Villas, Gibraltar Road, Baguio City
Market Value 1,809,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 1,447,000.00

ITEM 25 - CONDO UNIT
Floor Area 67.00 sqm
Innsbruck # 1212, Unit # 12 Europa Mines View Condo Villas, Gibraltar Road, Baguio City
Market Value 1,809,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 1,447,000.00

ITEM 27 - CONDO UNIT
Floor Area 69.00 sqm
Dresden # 1101-A, Unit # 1-A Europa Mines View Condo Villas, Gibraltar Road, Baguio City
Market Value 1,863,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 1,490,000.00

ITEM 28 - CONDO UNIT
Floor Area 69.00 sqm
Dresden # 2101-A, Unit # 1 Europa Mines View Condo Villas, Gibraltar Road, Baguio City
Market Value 1,863,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 1,490,000.00

ITEM 29 - CONDO UNIT
Floor Area 83.00 sqm
Andorra # 1508 Unit # 8 Europa Mines View Condo Villas, Gibraltar Road, Baguio City
Market Value 2,407,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 1,926,000.00

ITEM 30 - CONDO UNIT
Floor Area 83.00 sqm.
Andorra # 1509, Unit # 9 Europa Mines View Condo Villas, Gibraltar Road Baguio City
Market Value 2,407,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 1,926,000.00

ITEM 31 - CONDO UNIT
Floor Area 83.00 sqm.
Andorra # 2502, Unit # 2 Europa Mines View Condo Villas, Gibraltar Road, Baguio City
Market Value 2,407,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 1,926,000.00

ITEM 32 - CONDO UNIT
Floor Area 83.00 sqm.
Andorra # 2508, Unit # 8 Europa Mines View Condo Villas, Gibraltar Road, Baguio City
Market Value 2,407,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 1,926,000.00

ITEM 33 - CONDO UNIT
Floor Area 83.00 sqm
Andorra # 2509, Unit # 9 Europa Mines View Condo Villas, Gibraltar Road, Baguio City
Market Value. 2,407,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 1,926,000.00

ITEM 34 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 717.00 sqm.
Lot 1-C-5-P-20-A Interior St. Therese St., Mirador Hills, Baguio City
Market Value. 2,008,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 1,606,000.00

ITEM 35 - AGRILAND
Lot Area 1,243.00 sqm
Lot 1-B Along Bahong Road, La Trinidad, Benguet
Market Value 373,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 373,000.00

ITEM 36 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 5,000.00 sqm.
Lot 4 & Lot 6 Along Pert- Samoyao Road Alapang, La Trinidad, Benguet
Market Value 2,200,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 1,430,000.00

ITEM 37 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 1,000.00 sqm
Lot 2-A Km. 6 Brgy. Betag, La Trinidad, Benguet
Market Value 3,500,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 2,800,000.00

ITEM 38 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 339.00 sqm
Lot 175 Alta Verde Subd Km6. Asin Road Tuba, Benguet
Market Value 407,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 346,000.00

LA UNION

ITEM 39 - AGRILAND
Lot Area 13,348.00 sqm
Lot 4451-A Along National Highway San Eugenio, Aringay, La Union
Market Value 840,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 840,000.00

ITEM 40 - AGRILAND
Lot Area 145,000.00 sqm
Lot 1778-D Amontoc San Gabriel, La Union
Market Value 290,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 218,000.00

PANGASINAN

ITEM 41 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 300.00 sqm
Lot 9 Blk 19 Braganza Vil., Poblacion, Alaminos City, Pangasinan
Market Value 300,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 240,000.00

ITEM 42 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 250.00 sqm
Lot 51 Sadsaran, Alaminos City, Pangasinan
Market Value 250,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 200,000.00

ITEM 43 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area 2,210.00 sqm
Floor Area 125.00 sqm.
Lot 4038-P Bgy Bolaney Alaminos City, Pangasinan
Market Value 1,239,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 929,000.00

ITEM 44 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area 283.00 sqm
Lot 40 Mancel Subd. Sadsaran, Alaminos City, Pangasinan
Market Value 853,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 640,000.00

ITEM 45 - LOT W/ MINOR IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area 1,025.00 sqm
Lot 5266 Part Bgy Inerangan, Alaminos City, Pangasinan
Market Value 513,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 385,000.00

ITEM 46 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 22,802.67 sqm
Lot A-1 Bgy Pangapisan, Alaminos City
Market Value 1,254,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 1,003,000.00

ITEM 47 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area 255.00 sqm
Floor Area 90.00 sqm
Lot 622-Part Quimson St., Poblacion, Alaminos City
Market Value 1,340,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 1,282,000.00

ITEM 48 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area 3,000.00 sqm
Floor Area 548.00 sqm
Lot 11080-P Brgy Bued, Alaminos City, Pangasinan
Market Value 6,725,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 5,716,000.00

ITEM 49 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area 23,839.00 sqm
Floor Area 20.00 sqm
Lot 18283-B Bgy Ranom, Iloco, Bani Pangasinan
Market Value 1,158,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 753,000.00

ITEM 50 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area 800.00 sqm
Floor Area 156.00 sqm
Lot-A Brgy Pangasinan North, Lingayen Pangasinan
Market Value 909,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 760,000.00

ITEM 51 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area 342.00 sqm
Floor Area 56.00 sqm
Lot 14854-A Mapolopolo, Basista, Pangasinan
Market Value 346,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 265,000.00

ITEM 52 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area 606.00 sqm.
Floor Area 54.00 sqm.
Lot 16504-D Dumpay, Basista, Pangasinan
Market Value 325,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 244,000.00

ITEM 53 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 1,680.00 sqm
Lot 14779-B Mapolopolo Basista, Pangasinan
Market Value 344,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 275,000.00

ITEM 54 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 2,811.00 sqm
Lot 16721 Dumpay West, Basista, Pangasinan
Market Value 582,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 466,000.00

ITEM 55 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area 240.00 sqm
Floor Area 40.00 sqm
Lot 23 Diaz (Nandacan-Before), Bautista Pangasinan
Market Value 175,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 175,000.00

ITEM 56 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area 355.00 sqm
Floor Area 58.00 sqm
Lot 27 Bgy Diaz (Nandacan Before), Bautista Pangasinan
Market Value 263,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 197,000.00

ITEM 57 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 300.00 sqm
Lot 2 Blk 4 Sitio Odiao Bical Norte, Bayambang, Pangasinan
Market Value 168,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 118,000.00

ITEM 58 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area 749.00 sqm
Floor Area 188.50 sqm.
Poblacion, Bayambang, Pangasinan
Market Value 1,160,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 870,000.00

ITEM 59 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area 249.00 sqm
Floor Area 100.00 sqm.
Lot 1-B-3-C-1-B-1 Bued Binalonan, Pangasinan
Market Value 445,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 401,000.00

ITEM 60 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area 868.00 sqm
Floor Area 56.00 sqm
Lot A Brgy Caloocan Sur, Binmaley Pangasinan
Market Value 429,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 429,000.00

ITEM 61 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area 354.00 sqm
Floor Area 63.00 sqm
Lot 4328-A Bravest., (Int.), Magtaking, Bugallon, Pangasinan
Market Value 199,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 159,000.00

ITEM 62 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area 2,803.00 sqm
Floor Area 160.00 sqm
Lot B- Brgy Banaga West, Bugallon, Pangasinan
Market Value 1,841,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 1,289,000.00

ITEM 63 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area 228.00 sqm
Floor Area 92.00 sqm
Lot 15817-A San Miguel, Calasiao Pangasinan
Market Value 802,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 802,000.00

ITEM 64 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area 447.00 sqm.
Floor Area 91.00 sqm
Lot 4038-B & Lot 4038-D Sitio Pandayan, Gabon, Calasiao, Pangasinan
Market Value 386,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 290,000.00

ITEM 65 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area. 170.00 sqm
Floor Area 108.00 sqm
Nalsian, Calasiao Pangasinan
Market Value 502,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 477,000.00

ITEM 66 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area 721.00 sqm
Lot 6778 Lasip Calasiao, Pangasinan
Market Value 541,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 406,000.00

ITEM 67 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area 901.00 sqm
Floor Area 150.00 sqm
Lot 199-B Nalsian Calasiao, Pangasinan
Market Value 1,870,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 1,403,000.00

ITEM 68 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area 415.00 sqm
Lot 4 Bonuan Gueset, Dagupan City
Market Value 1,035,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 900,000.00

ITEM 69 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area 185.00 sqm
Floor Area 72.00 sqm
Lot 925-A-2 Caranglaan Dist., Dagupan City
Market Value 643,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 482,000.00

ITEM 70 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 1,621.50 sqm
Lot 6-A Interior, Bonuan Boquig, Dagupan City
Market Value 486,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 389,000.00

ITEM 71 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 204.00 sqm
Lot 24-B-4 Lasip Grande, Dagupan City
Market Value 61,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 43,000.00

ITEM 72 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 204.00 sqm
Lot 24-B-2 Lasip Grande, Dagupan City
Market Value 61,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 43,000.00

ITEM 73 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 254.00 sqm
Lot 24-B-28 Lasip Grande, Dagupan City
Market Value 76,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 53,000.00

ITEM 74 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 277.00 sqm
Lot 24-B-33 Lasip Grande, Dagupan City
Market Value 83,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 58,000.00

ITEM 75 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 2,223.00 sqm
Lot 7748-B-4 Interior Bisal St., Bonuan Boquig, Dagupan City
Market Value 1,000,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 700,000.00

ITEM 76 - LOT W/ MINOR IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area 300.00 sqm
Lot 7658-A-1 San Gabriael, Bonuan Boquig, Dagupan City
Market Value 300,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 240,000.00

ITEM 77 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area 343.00 sqm
Floor Area 61.00 sqm
Lot 4807 Lucao Dist., Dagupan City
Market Value 628,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 471,000.00

ITEM 78 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 668.00 sqm
Lot 24-B-10 / 24-B-1 / 24-B-30 Lasip Grande, Dagupan City
Market Value 200,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 140,000.00

ITEM 79 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 539.00 sqm
Lot 7774-B-6 Interior, Bonuan Boquig Dagupan City
Market Value 270,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 189,000.00

ITEM 80 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area 201.00 sqm
Floor Area 102.00 sqm.
Lot 2-M-2 Bonuan Boquig, Dagupan City
Market Value 866,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 650,000.00

ITEM 81 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 1,079.00 sqm
Lot 1439 Mangin District, Dagupan City
Market Value 270,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 203,000.00

ITEM 82 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area 1,853.00 sqm
Floor Area 73.00 sqm
Lot 6451-C Bacayao Norte, Dagupan City
Market Value 961,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 825,000.00

ITEM 83 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area 185.00 sqm
Floor Area 138.00 sqm.
Lot 1 Tambac Dist. Dagupan City
Market Value 1,121,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 841,000.00

ITEM 84 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area 352.00 sqm.
Floor Area 131.00 sqm.
Lot 3 Bonuan Gueset Dagupan City
Market Value 816,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 612,000.00

ITEM 85 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area 239.50 sqm
Lot 3-A-2 Interior Herrero-Perez, Dagupan City
Market Value 599,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 449,000.00

ITEM 86 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area 428.00 sqm
Floor Area 135.00 sqm.
Lot 8481-B-2-B Bonuan Binloc, Dagupan City
Market Value 939,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 751,000.00

ITEM 87 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 832.00 sqm
Lot 8088-B Bonuan Gueset, Dagupan City
Market Value 418,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 333,000.00

ITEM 88 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area 316.00 sqm
Floor Area 173.00 sqm.
Lot 5475-M Calarin Road, Malued, Dagupan City
Market Value 835,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 626,000.00

ITEM 89 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 1,533.00 sqm
Lot 5533-B Interior, Malued Dist Dagupan City
Market Value 1,666,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 1,166,000.00

ITEM 90 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area 200.00 sqm.
Floor Area 143.00 sqm
Lot 5474-F-1-B Clann Road, Malued Dist., Dagupan City
Market Value 1,233,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 925,000.00

ITEM 91 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 1,796.00 sqm
Lot 2-D Melendez St., Bonuan Boquig, Dagupan City
Market Value 1,509,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 1,056,000.00

ITEM 92 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area 1,629.00 sqm
Lot 3831 A B Fernandez West, Dagupan City
Market Value 1,140,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 741,000.00

ITEM 93 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 814.00 sqm
Lot 6580-C & 6580-D Caranglaan Dist., Dagupan City
Market Value: 921,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 737,000.00

ITEM 94 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 2,860.00 sqm
Lot 7764 Interior, Gonzales St., Bonuan Boquig, Dagupan City
Market Value. 1,430,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 1,001,000.00

ITEM 95 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area 1,000.00 sqm
Lot 7039-B Cantores Road, Bonuan Gueset, Dagupan City
Market Value 2,276,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 1,479,000.00

ITEM 96 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 1,034.00 sqm
Lot 3847-A Interior, Amado-Tapuac, Dagupan City
Market Value 2,585,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 1,810,000.00

ITEM 97 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 3,317.00 sqm
Lot 8254 Bonuan Boquig, Dagupan City
Market Value 2,073,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 1,451,000.00

ITEM 98 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area 171.00 sqm
Floor Area 253.00 sqm
Lot 4430-A-2 Malta Vill., Dagupan City
Market Value 3,713,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 2,785,000.00

ITEM 99 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area 751.00 sqm
Floor Area 84.00 sqm
Lot 4 Bonuan Gueset, Dagupan City
Market Value 2,605,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 1,824,000.00

ITEM 100 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 1,402.00 sqm
Floor Area 95.00 sqm.
Lot 2-B-2 & Lot 3-B Bonuan Gueset, Dagupan City
Market Value 5,769,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 4,615,000.00

ITEM 101 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 2,355.00 sqm
Lot 1956-B Brgy. Laois, Labrador, Pangasinan
Market Value: 589,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 500,000.00

ITEM 102 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 779.00 sqm.
Floor Area 83.00 sqm.
Lot 14668 Interior Solis St., Poblacion, Lingayen, Pangasinan
Market Value. 2,039,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 1,427,000.00

ITEM 103 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 1,014.00 sqm
Floor Area 228.50 sqm.
Lot 2 Bgy Tagudin, Mabini, Pangasinan
Market Value 922,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 830,000.00

ITEM 104 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 555.00 sqm.
Floor Area 84.00 sqm.
Lot 14514-D-1 Barang/Bolaoit, Malasiqui, Pangasinan
Market Value 361,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 275,000.00

ITEM 105 - LOT W/ MINOR IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area. 4,302.00 sqm
Lot 2462-C Cabeldatan, Malasiqui, Pangasinan
Market Value: 512,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 335,000.00

ITEM 106 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area. 2,500.00 sqm
Lot 2 Akaga, Malasiqui, Pangasinan
Market Value: 952,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 714,000.00

ITEM 107 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area 2,305.00 sqm
Floor Area 45.00 sqm.
Lot 3-A-2 Bgy. Goliman, Malasiqui, Pangasinan
Market Value: 338,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 237,000.00

ITEM 108 - LOT W/ MINOR IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area 5,070.00 sqm.
Lot 12 Palong, Malasiqui, Pangasinan
Market Value 581,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 436,000.00

ITEM 109 - LOT W/ MINOR IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area 2,182.00 sqm.
Lot 2471-B Payar, Malasiqui, Pangasinan
Market Value 458,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 344,000.00

ITEM 110 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area 387.00 sqm
Floor Area 72.00 sqm
Lot 8505-C Lokeb Norte, Malasiqui, Pangasinan
Market Value 445,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 401,000.00

ITEM 111 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area 6,974.00 sqm
Lot 13367 Brgy Lepa, Malasiqui, Pangasinan
Market Value 580,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 435,000.00

ITEM 112 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area 1,022.00 sqm
Floor Area 48.00 sqm
Lot 909 Gulig, Malasiqui, Pangasinan
Market Value 402,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 261,000.00

ITEM 113 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 3,460.00 sqm
Lot 10163-A Bgy Asin, Malasiqui Pangasinan
Market Value 433,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 346,000.00

ITEM 114 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area 12,651.00 sqm
Lot 5569 Palong Malasiqui Pangasinana
Market Value 990,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 743,000.00

ITEM 115 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 2,671.00 sqm
Lot 2-A-1 Bgy Banlao Manaoag, Pangasinan
Market Value 1,603,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 1,122,000.00

ITEM 117 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 134.00 sqm
Lot 15 Banaoang, Mangaldan, Pangasinan
Market Value 127,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 102,000.00

ITEM 118 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area 253.00 sqm
Floor Area 121.00 sqm
Lot 1 Embarcadero, Mangaldan Pangasinan
Market Value 425,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 319,000.00

ITEM 119 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area 268.00 sqm
Lot 2-B 252 Guguilonen, Mangaldan, Pangasinan
Market Value 279,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 209,000.00

ITEM 120 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area 393.00 sqm
Floor Area 68.00 sqm
Lot 5-A-1 Interior, Guguilonen, Mangaldan Pangasinan
Market Value 665,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 466,000.00

ITEM 121 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area 576.00 sqm
Lot 8361 Bantayan, Mangaldan, Pangasinan
Market Value 317,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 238,000.00

ITEM 122 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area 897.00 sqm
Floor Area 77.00 sqm
Lot 1102-F Navaluan Mangaldan Pangasinan
Market Value 533,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 400,000.00

ITEM 123 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area 797.00 sqm
Floor Area 124.00 sqm
Lot 915 Brgy Guguilonen, Mangaldan, Pangasinan
Market Value 2,045,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 1,636,000.00

ITEM 124 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area 1,717.00 sqm
Floor Area 123.00 sqm
Lot 3341-H Brgy Dorongan Punta, Mangatarem, Pangasinan
Market Value 871,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 862,000.00

ITEM 125 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area 868.00 sqm
Floor Area 89.00 sqm
Lot 3341-G Brgy Dorongan Punta, Mangatarem, Pangasinan
Market Value 389,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 346,000.00

ITEM 126 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area 1,022.00 sqm
Floor Area 98.50 sqm
Lot 21 Bo Pias (Now Nilombot), Mapandan, Pangasinan
Market Value 614,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 400,000.00

ITEM 127 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area 420.00 sqm
Floor Area 196.00 sqm
Lot 1853 Bougainvilla St., Mapandan Pangasinan
Market Value 917,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 734,000.00

ITEM 128 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area 4,812.00 sqm
Floor Area 138.00 sqm
Lot 1 Nilombot, Mapandan, Pangasinan
Market Value 3,339,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 2,170,000.00

ITEM 129 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area 8,843.00 sqm
Lot 2-A Nilombot, Mapandan, Pangasinan
Market Value 3,922,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 2,942,000.00

ITEM 130 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area 950.00 sqm
Floor Area 142.00 sqm
Lot 2301-B
Poblacion Rosales Pangasinan
Market Value 790,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 514,000.00

ITEM 131 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area 801.00 sqm
Lot 2-A-1 Carmen (West), Rosales, Pangasinan
Market Value 961,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 721,000.00

ITEM 132 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 258.00 sqm.
Lot 2-A-7-A-2 Carmen, Rosales, Pangasinan
Market Value 1,264,200.00
Minimum Bid Price 1,011,000.00

ITEM 133 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 258.00 sqm
Lot 2-A-7-A-3 Carmen, Rosales, Pangasinan
Market Value 1,264,200.00
Minimum Bid Price 1,011,000.00

ITEM 134 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area 600.00 sqm
Lot 13-C-2 Carmen West, Rosales, Pangasinan
Market Value 2,316,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 1,737,000.00

ITEM 135 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area 540.00 sqm
Lot A Lot B Poblacion, Rosales, Pangasinan
Market Value 2,268,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 1,814,000.00

ITEM 136 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area 682.87 sqm.
Floor Area 126.00 sqm
Lot 19538-E Gamata, San Carlos City (Pangasinan)
Market Value 441,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 397,000.00

ITEM 137 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area 176.00 sqm
Floor Area 56.00 sqm
Lot 5004-I & 5004-J Poblacion (Padilla Street) San Carlos City, Pangasinan
Market Value 547,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 438,000.00

ITEM 138 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area 6,852.00 sqm
Floor Area 165.00 sqm
Lot 21814-A Salinap (Now Aponit) San Carlos City Pangasinan
Market Value 944,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 708,000.00

ITEM 139 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 1,892.00 sqm
Lot 26834 Bgy Gamata, S Carlos City Pangasinan
Market Value 161,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 129,000.00

ITEM 140 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 3,934.00 sqm
Lot 24329-A Balaya San Carlos City Pangasinan
Market Value 489,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 342,000

ITEM 141 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 1,455.00 sqm
Lot 6195-A-3 Doyong, San Carlos City Pangasinan
Market Value 291,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 204,000.00

ITEM 142 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 676.00 sqm
Lot 5571-B-1 Brgy Cruz, San Carlos City Pangasinan
Market Value 372,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 260,000.00

ITEM 143 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area 1,261.00 sqm
Floor Area 75.00 sqm
Lot 2207 Brgy Baloyong (Bolingit) San Carlos City Pangasinan
Market Value 456,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 342,000.00

ITEM 144 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area 1,588.00 sqm
Lot 5689-A (Sitio Malimpec) Bolingit, San Carlos City Pangasinan
Market Value 586,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 381,000.00

ITEM 145 - AGRILAND
Lot Area 3,837.00 sqm
Lot 9004 Brgy Polo, San Carlos City, Pangasinan
Market Value 249,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 187,000.00

ITEM 146 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area 1,076.00 sqm
Floor Area 40.00 sqm
Lot 3965-E Cangal (Formerly Magtaquing) San Carlos City Pangasinan
Market Value 546,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 355,000.00

ITEM 147 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area 300.00 sqm
Floor Area 88.00 sqm
Lot 5465-B Bgy Bolingit, San Carlos City, Pangasinan
Market Value 520,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 468,000.00

ITEM 149 - LOT W/ MINOR IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area 3,016.00 sqm
Lot 24364-C & Lot 24364-B Gamata, San Carlos City, Pangasinan
Market Value 452,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 384,000.00

ITEM 150 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area 8,480.00 sqm
Floor Area 52.00 sqm
Lot 697-B Abanon, San Carlos City, Pangasinan
Market Value 903,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 587,000.00

ITEM 151 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area 751.00 sqm
Floor Area 167.00 sqm
Lot 6501-C-1 Doyong, San Carlos City Pangasinan
Market Value 1,080,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 864,000.00

ITEM 152 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area 4,577.50 sqm
Floor Area 65.00 sqm
Lot 19541-B Gamata (Talang Before), San Carlos City
Market Value 558,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 363,000.00

ITEM 153 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area 6,730.00 sqm
Floor Area 147.00 sqm
Lot 26188 Bgy Pangpang (Calomboyan Before) San Carlos City Pangasinan
Market Value 921,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 691,000.00

ITEM 154 - LOT W/ MINOR IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area 3,956.00 sqm
5402-C-2 / 5402-C-3 / 5402-C-4 Bgy Bolingit, San Carlos City, Pangasinan
Market Value 673,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 437,000.00

ITEM 155 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area 662.00 sqm
Floor Area 64.00 sqm
Lot 3962-E (Caingal) San Carlos City, Pangasinan
Market Value 795,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 636,000.00

ITEM 156 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 9,680.00 sqm
Lot 10319 Lilimasan (Manandag), San Carlos City Pangasinan
Market Value 839,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 587,000.00

ITEM 158 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area 454.00 sqm
Floor Area 126.00 sqm
Lot 851-Aa Poblacion San Carlos City Tomas, Pangasinan
Market Value 1,301,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 1,041,000.00

ITEM 160 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 1,000.00 sqm
Lot 1-J-5-B / Lot 1-J-5-C Nibaliw Sabangan West, San Fabian, Pangasinan
Market Value 1,300,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 1,040,000.00

ITEM 161 - LOT & IMPROVE
MENT
Lot Area 762.00 sqm
Floor Area: 170.00 sqm
Lot 1578 Brgy Lekop San
Fabian Pangasinan
Market Value 519,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 467,000.0

ITEM 162 - LOT W/ MAKE-
SHIFT IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area 2,000.00 sqm
Lot 1-J-4-A Brgy Nibaliw West
San Fabian Pangasinan
Market Value 2,160,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 1,728,000.0

ITEM 163 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 13,779.00 sqm
Lot 1-A-V Nibaliw West Saban
gan, San Fabian, Pangasinan
Market Value 5,568,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 3,898,000.0

ITEM 164 - LOT & IMPROV
MENT
Lot Area. 247.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 63.00 sqm
Lot C-6 Lobong (Centro I), San
Jacinto, Pangasinan
Market Value 253,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 164,000.0

ITEM 165 - LOT W/ MAKE-
SHIFT IMPROVEMEN
Lot Area 3,246.00 sqm
Lot 1 San Isidro, San Nicola
Pangasi
Market Value 287,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 230,000.

ITEM 166 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 342.00 sqm
Lot 2-B-4 Banaoang
(Malicmatic Before) Sta. Bar-
bara, Pangasinan
Market Value 68,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 48,000.0

ITEM 169 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 4,370.00 sqm
Lot 1-C-1 / 2-C-2 / 2-C-3 / 2-C
/ 2-C-5 / 2-C-6 / 2-C-7 / 1-C-8
Banaoang (Malicmatic Before
Sta. Barbara, Pangasinan
Market Value 874,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 612,000

ITEM 170 - LOT W/ MAKE-
SHIFT IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area 1,092.00 sqm
Lot 3-1-239 Sta. Rosa, Sta.
Maria, Pangasinan
Market Value: 218,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 185,000

ITEM 171 - LOT & IMPROVE
MENT
Lot Area 2,841.00 sqm
Floor Area 91.00 sqm.
Lot 1 Bgy Seselangen, Sual,
Pangasinan
Market Value 830,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 830,000

ITEM 172 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 1,162.00 sqm
Lot 1093 Bgy Lasian West,
Sual, Pangasinan
Market Value 93,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 74,000

ITEM 173 - LOT & IMPROV
MENT
Lot Area 221.00 sqm
Floor Area 42.00 sqm.
Lot 2048-A-3 Bantug (Apalo
Before) Umingan, Pangasin
Market Value 143,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 107,00

ITEM 174 - LOT & IMPROV
MENT
Lot Area 232.00 sqm
Floor Area 42.00 sqm.
Lot 2-G-2 Poblacion, Uming
Pangasinan
Market Value 188,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 141,00

ITEM 175 - LOT & IMPROV
MENT
Lot Area 3,934.00 sqm.
Floor Area 80.00 sqm
Sawat, Urbiztondo, Pangas
Market Value 608,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 395,00

ITEM 176 - LOT & IMPROV
MENT
Lot Area 330.00 sqm.
Floor Area 119.00 sqm
Lot 287-D Poblacion, Urbiz
tondo, Pangasinan
Market Value 763,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 687,0

ITEM 177 - LOT & IMPRO
MENT
Lot Area: 1,500.00 sqm.
Floor Area 345.00 sqm.
Lot 1154-A-4 Cabuloan, Ur
neta City (Pangasinan)
Market Value 700,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 700,0

ITEM 178 - LOT & IMPRO
MENT
Lot Area 54.50 sqm
Floor Area 84.00 sqm.
Lot 297-A Poblacion, Urda
City, Pangasinan
Market Value 239,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 200,0

ITEM 179 - LOT & IMPRO
MENT
Lot Area 150.00 sq
Floor Area 74.00 sq
Lot 558-C-2 San Vicente
Urdaneta City (Pangasina
Market Value 414,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 269,

ITEM 182 - LOT W/ MAKE
SHIFT IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 371.00 sqm.
Lot 5875-C-7-I Villasis, Pa
inan
Market Value: 45,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 32,0

ITEM 183 - LOT W/ MAKE
SHIFT IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area 382.00 sqm.
Lot 5875-C-7-J Villasis, P
sinan
Market Value 46,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 32,0

ITEM 184 - LOT W/ MAK
SHIFT IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area 389.00 sqm
Lot V Unzad, Villasis, Pa
inan
Market Value 47,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 33,0

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Colin Farrell on Woody Allen: He absolutely has no technique

TORONTO—DESPITE MORE THAN three dozen films to his credit, legendary movie director **Woody Allen** insists that he really doesn't work all that hard, is lazy and just got into [illegible] meet women.

[illegible] I'm being facetious, but I'm not a dedicated filmmaker," he told reporters at the North American premiere of his latest film "Cassandra's Dream."

"I'm lazy. Making films is not the be-all and end-all of my life," he said Wednesday at the Toronto film festival.

Allen insists he prefers to "shoot and go home and get on with my life... I don't have the patience to rehearse with actors ... or to shoot this way and shoot that way."

Irish actor Colin Farrell, who is cast in "Cassandra's Dream" opposite Scotsman **Ewan McGregor**, confirmed this ... sort of.

Allen has "absolutely has no technique, which is beautiful," Farrell said. "He's just there to tell a tale." *AFP*

RUSHES SUNDAY

BILLY Crawford

Setting up camp in India

MUMBAI—Hollywood actress **Catherine Zeta-Jones** is set to visit India with husband **Michael Douglas** to shoot a new film, a newspaper on Thursday quoted her as saying.

Zeta-Jones told the Times of India newspaper she was currently developing the script with Douglas.

"We will take our kids and all of us will come there, set a camp in India and shoot a film," Zeta-Jones told the newspaper. Asked if she had watched any Indian films, Zeta-Jones replied she had, "though I can't remember the names now." *Reuters*

Childhood erased

NEW ORLEANS—Singer-pianist **Harry Connick Jr.** on Tuesday visited his childhood Lakeview neighborhood here, which was badly damaged during Katrina. He discovered that his old house had been demolished.

"It's just an empty lot," he said. "It's sad because for me there's a lot of sentimental value, but it's good too because it means that things are going to change." *AP*

Top of the tabloids

The top show biz stories in local tabloids this week. (And why we are moved, if we are moved.)

CAMILLE PRATS

JOHN Prats

- **Vhong Navarro** *at* **Desiree del Valle**, *hiwalay na.*
- **Aiko**, *nilayasan ang asawa!*
- *Dyowa ni* Aiko, *may ibang ka*-date. (All together now: That's the way the cookie...)
- **Pops Fernandez**, *itsapuwera sa bagong album ni* **Martin Nievera**!
- True *ba:* Snooky *at* **Lito Lapid** *mag-dyowa na? (Sa'n galing 'to?)*
- **Cherie Gil**: "Roni Rogoff and I are still very much together.
- *Seryoso:* **Shaina Magdayao** *at* **John Prats**, 4 months *na raw mag*-on.
- Shaina, *umamin sa relasyon nila ni* John.

'K' for *kilig*?

- **KC Concepcion**, *kinikilig kina* Piolo Pascual *at* **John Lloyd Cruz**.
- KC *nairita kay* **Billy Crawford** *tungkol sa* 'She is a good kisser' *isyu.*
- *Panliligaw ni* Billy, *inamin ni* KC.
- Billy, *binasted noon ni* KC.
- KC mum about **Lino Cayetano** but says, "My heart is happy now."
- KC, *respctado ni* Billy.
- Billy, *sinungaling? (Di totoong* respected *niya si* KC?)
- *Sa pagli*-link *sa kanila ni* KC, Billy *nag*-sorry *kay* Sharon!
- Billy on KC: *"Nakakahiya."*
- KC, *nilustay ang pera ng* ABS-CBN.
- **Gabby Concepcion**, *puro* cards *lang bigay kay* KC.
- KC wants to visit Gabby once a year. (She likes cards.)
- KC *nagtrabaho bilang sekretarya sa* press agency *sa* Paris. (*E ano naman?*)
- KC *hindi nabuntis; hindi nag-drugs!*
- KC *palaging may katabi sa* Paris. (It's a crowded city.)
- Sharon, *'di papatulan si* Billy.
- Sharon, *pinagbawalang magsalita ng duktor.* (*Suwerte ni* Billy.)

Frozen delight

- Edu's active sex life no secret.
- Underwear *ni* **Richard Gutierrez**, *inaabangan sa 'Rrrampa.'*
- **Yasmien Kurdi** *at* **Jennylyn Mercado**, *'di pa rin nag-uusap.*
- Jennylyn, *ayaw ng* guesting, *gusto* regular show.
- Jennylyn *isinugod sa ospital dahil sa pag-palpitate ng* puso.
- Jennylyn, *inisnab ang* birthday *ni* **Patrick Garcia**.
- Jennylyn, *binibuwisit ang* GMA 7?
- Jennylyn, *'di naman* frozen delight.
- *Mag-utol na* **Camille** at John Prats, *iritang-irita sa* BF *ni* **Toni Gonzaga**.
- Camille's BF wants to be with her for life.
- *Sa kanyang pagbubuntis: "Wala akong dapat ikahiya!* It's a blessing."—Camille
- Super rich *ang tatay ng anak ni* Camille.
- Camille, *pakakasalan daw ng* super rich BF.

KC Concepcion

Good call

- **Kris Aquino**, *walang balak bawiin ang* "Pilipinas, Game Ka Na Ba?" (Good call.)
- 'Game Ka Na Ba' *isosoli ni* Edu *kay* Kris. (*Bakit naman?.*)
- *Pagka-tsugi ng* game show *ni* Kris, *marami ang natuwa.*
- *Pagsisihan kaya ni* Kris *ang pagalis sa* 'The Buzz' *at* 'PGKNB'?

What women want

- **Juday**, *ayaw makatrabaho ni* **Angelika dela Cruz**.
- Sharon-Goma movie, *palit sa* Sharon-Binoe. (An ex, by any other name...)
- *Anak ni* **Angelu de Leon**, *ayaw kilalanin ng ama.*
- Angelu hates the fathers of her two daughters.
- Angelu, hate *sina* **Joko Diaz** *at* **Jojo Manlongat**. (Pick another letter next time.)
- *Ama ng pangalawang anak ni* Angelu, BF *ni* **Sunshine Dizon** *ngayon.*
- Sunshine, *pipirma ng* guaranteed contract *sa Siyete.*
- **Ruffa** *at* **Yilmaz**, 11 *araw nang di nag-uusap.*
- Ruffa, *ibinuking ni* **Annabelle** *na di sila* sweet *ni* Yilmaz.
- Ruffa, *pinahiya ni* Annabelle?
- Ruffa *pinaiyak ni* Annabelle!
- Mom set me up, says Ruffa.
- Feeling *ni* Annabelle *pina-plastik siya ni* Ruffa.
- Annabelle laments Richard Gutierrez-**Georgina Wilson** split.
- *"Di na kailangang maghubad para maging seksi."*—**Billy Crawford**
- **Jean Garcia**, *pinipilit magpaseksi si* Jennica!
- Wish *ni* Jean, *'wag magaya sa kanya si* Jennica. (*Medyo* confusing.)

Enough, enough!

- **Joey de Leon**, *payag ipagamit sa mga* novelty items *ang salitang* "Explain before you complain."
- *Dahil sobrang siniraan siya,* Joey de Leon *seryoso sa hinihingi kay* **Willie Revillame**. (Meanwhile, who remembers the name of the "cheated" contestant?)
- Richard Gutierrez *at* **Angel Locsin**, *nagkita sa* commercial shoot *sa* Bangkok.
- **Gary Estrada**'s wife pregnant again.
- Gary quotes wife **Bernadette Allyson**: *"Kaysa sa iba ka pa magka-anak, sa akin na lang." (Korek ba 'yon?)*
- **Roxanne Guinoo, Matt Evans** *malalaki na raw ang ulo.*
- **Carlo Aquino** cries on breakup with Angelica Panganiban.
- Angelica *at* Derek *palaging magkasama pero 'di nagli*-live in.
- Angelica, *ayaw pagalaw kay* **Derek Ramsey**.
- **JC de Vera** *natulog sa kuwarto ni* Yasmien Kurdi!

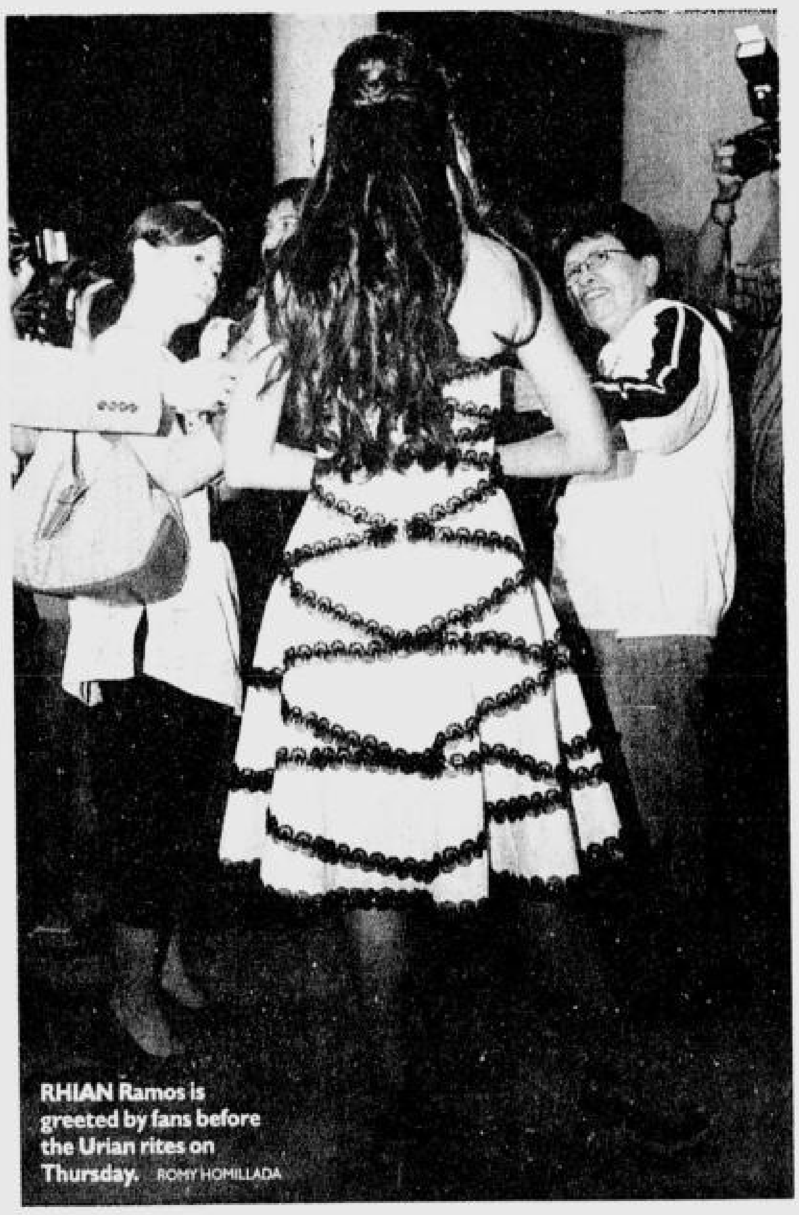
ANGELU DE LEON

Plastic ware

- *"Si* **Wendy Valdez** *ang pinaka*-plastic *sa akin!"*—**Uma Khouny**
- *"Wala pang kapalit si* Ara *sa puso ko!"*—**Polo Ravales**
- *Maraming naprodyus na* enemies *ang* "Pinoy Big Brother 1."
- **Manny Pacquiao** *ayaw talagang hiwalayan si* **Ara Mina**.
- **Gina Alajar**, *hinimatay sa baho.*
- **Mariel Rodriguez**, *pineke sa* computer!
- **Rochelle Pangilinan**, *nagparetoke.*
- Rochelle, *dapat bang* mag-"Thank you, *duktor*"?
- **Jean Garcia**, *takot sa retoke!*
- Tattoo, body piercing *at* drugs, *bawal sa* Sex Bomb!
- *Basehan sa pagpili ng bagong* Sex Bomb: *Kahit pangit, basta magaling sumayaw.*
- **Pokwang**, *magtigil ka, hindi ka kagandahan!*

Sound priorities

- **Cristine Reyes**, sexier than **Katrina Halili**?
- Katrina, *mas gusto pang matulog kaysa magpaligaw.*
- **Sid Lucero**, *tinututukan ng guwardiya.*
- **Nadine Samonte**, *ninakawan din.*
- **Alfred Vargas** denies building a love nest for him and **LJ Reyes**.
- **Sitti**, *pinagselosan ng* GF *ni* **Aiza Seguerra**.
- *Ayaw ma*-link *ni* Sitti *sa tomboy.*
- Piolo, *mahina sa takilya 'pag 'di si* Juday *ang kapareha.*
- Gov. Vi *at* **Korina Sanchez**, *bati na!*
- **Allan K**, *pinatanggal si* **Chokoleit** *sa* movie *ng* OctoArts?
- *"Hindi bading si* **Christian Bautista**!"—**Rachelle Ann Go**
- **Dawn Zulueta**, *bawal nang pahalik.*


RHIAN Ramos is greeted by fans before the Urian rites on Thursday. ROMY HOMILLADA

H'wood fall, holiday preview

LOS ANGELES—HOLLYWOOD may not have a Harry Potter, Spider-Man, Shrek or Capt. Jack Sparrow on its upcoming lineup. Yet the fall and holiday schedule does offer filmgoers a chance to catch up with some familiar characters, stories and movie-making teams.

It'll be reunion season for actors and filmmakers such as Russell Crowe and Ridley Scott ("American Gangster"); Cate Blanchett and Shekhar Kapur ("Elizabeth: The Golden Age"); Nicolas Cage and Jon Turteltaub ("National Treasure: Book of Secrets"); Johnny Depp, Helena Bonham Carter and Tim Burton ("Sweeney Todd"); and Ben Stiller and the Farrelly brothers ("The Heartbreak Kid").

It'll be reacquaintance season for some classic characters in Robert Zemeckis' retelling of the Norse legend "Beowulf"; "Fred Claus," a North Pole comedy about Santa (Paul Giamatti) and his black-sheep brother (Vince Vaughn); and "I Am Legend," with Will Smith in a new take on the sci-fi thriller "The Omega Man."

There's even the return of a venerable genre, the Western, which has fallen on hard times in modern Hollywood. Crowe and Christian Bale star in the remake "3:10 to Yuma," about a poor rancher helping to escort a captured gang leader, while a second Old West tale comes close on its heels with "The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford."

Brad Pitt, starring as James won Best Actor at the recent Venice Film Festival.

Favorite themes

In other fall films, Crowe plays a New York cop to Denzel Washington's Harlem crime kingpin in director Scott's "American Gangster"; Stiller rejoins the Farrellys, who directed him in "There's Something About Mary," for "The Heartbreak Kid," about a man who meets the perfect woman—on his honeymoon with another bride; Cage sets out to clear an ancestor implicated in Abraham Lincoln's assassination in the "National Treasure" sequel; frequent collaborators Depp, Bonham Carter and Burton adapt Stephen Sondheim's "Sweeney Todd," the musical about the murderous 18th century barber; Vaughn plays the title role in "Fred Claus" to Giamatti's Santa, who bails his sibling out of jail and forces him to work at the North Pole.

Reese Witherspoon is a woman searching for her missing husband, an Egyptian who vanishes on a flight to Washington, in "Rendition"; Joaquin Phoenix and Jennifer Connelly are a couple in grief after their son is killed by a hit-and-run driver (Mark Ruffalo) in "Reservation Road"; Phoenix stars with Mark Wahlberg and Robert Duvall in "We Own the Night," a crime tale in 1980s New York; and Tim Roth stars in Francis Ford Coppola's "Youth Without Youth," playing a professor on the run in Europe.

Also, Angelina Jolie, Anthony Hopkins and Ray Winstone are featured in "Beowulf," with Zemeckis applying the performance-capture technology he used in "The Polar Express" to animate the epic of the hero's battle against the monster Grendel and his mother; Steve Carell plays a widower who falls for his brother's girlfriend (Juliette Binoche) in "Dan in Real Life"; Tommy Lee Jones, Charlize Theron and Susan Sarandon star in a murder mystery surrounding an Iraq war soldier after he returns home in "In the Valley of Elah"; Sarandon plays a wicked queen who banishes a princess (Amy Adams) to modern New York in "Enchanted." *AP*

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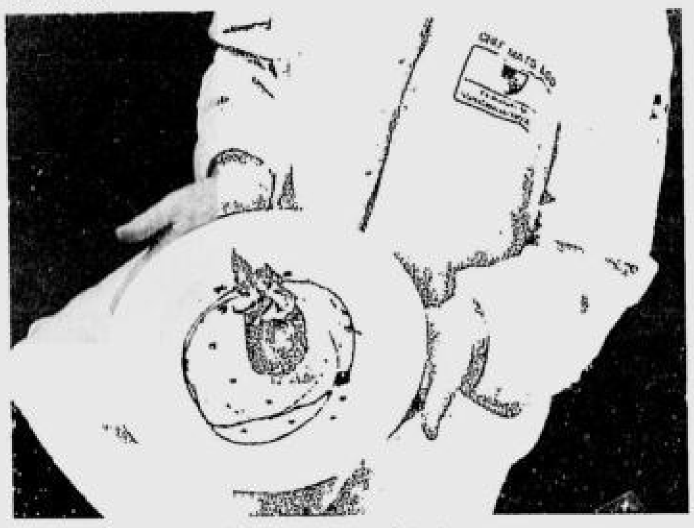

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ENTERTAINMEN

Intrigue in Venice, celebration in Toronto

COLIN Farrell, second from right, with Fil-Canadians Michael Acedillo, Samantha East and Carmelita Gonzalez at the Toronto International Film Festival bash

Jesse Bradford on Iza Calzado: 'She's sweet, beautiful and talented'

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Ruben V. Nepales

TORONTO, ONTARIO—A source gave us the following information about the heated discussion among the jurors of the Venice Film Festival's Horizons (Orizzonti) Documentary section.

Here's the insider's account of the debate that reveals how **Lav Diaz**'s nine-hour long "Kagadanan sa Banwaan Ning Mga Engkanto (Death in the Land of Encantos)" came close to winning the top prize:

"As you may already know, Lav ended his acceptance speech [for his special mention citation] with a heartfelt 'Long live Philippine Cinema!' What you may not know is that there were heated discussions in the jury. According to one of the jurors, a one-hour-plus debate centered on the question of whether Lav's film was a documentary or not.

"Two of the five jurors strongly stood up for the film. The two were Berlin Film Festival's Forum des Jungen Films director **Ulrich Gregor** and Syrian director **Hala Alabdalla Yakoub**. The latter was the most passionate supporter of the film. To everybody's surprise, veteran docu-maker **Frederick Wiseman**, who is himself a creator of extremely lengthy work, was not a supporter of Lav's film.

"After a long and animated discussion, the jurors decided to give a special mention prize to Lav's film and the top award to **Jia Zhangke**'s 'Wuyong' ('Useless')."

WHO came to the party? From left, co-producer Will Wright, actress Amelia Warner, Fil-Canadians Carmelita Gonzalez, Michael Acedillo and Samantha East and actor Jesse Bradford. RUBEN V. NEPALES

Traditional toast

Colin Farrell, Jude Law, Jessica Alba and **Joaquin Phoenix** were among the big stars who attended the party that InStyle magazine and our press group hosted last Tuesday at the posh Windsor Arms hotel.

This party, which has become a tradition at the Toronto International Film Festival, is always held in this city's luxurious boutique hotel. The event has the feel of a celebration and is a wonderful way to toast the film community as the festival starts to wind down. In its coverage of the annual party, The Globe and Mail, Canada's largest-circulated national newspaper, wrote that it is "often considered the festival's hottest ticket."

We invited **Yam Laranas** and **Iza Calzado** but they had to regretfully turn down our tempting offer. They had to film a big and important scene for "The Echo" the following day.

At the hotel lobby that was magnificently transformed and decorated with flowers, special lighting and music, we bumped into Yam's lead actor, **Jesse Bradford**.

"I think the film will turn out good," the star of Clint Eastwood's "Flags of our Fathers" told us when we asked him about "The Echo." He whipped out his cell phone and texted Yam to tell him that we just met at the party. But we guessed that the director was already in slumber land to prepare for the following day's challenging shoot.

When we asked Jesse about Iza, he said with a smile, "She's sweet, beautiful and talented." He confirmed that yes, Iza got him addicted to the Philippines' dried mangoes. When we teased him about his acting debut when he was eight months old, a Q-Tip TV commercial which he had told us about when we interviewed him for "Flags...," Jesse quipped, "My mom has a copy of that commercial but I will not let her show it."

Best with beer

Jesse introduced us to **Amelia Warner**, who also stars in the American version of Regal Entertainment's "Sigaw," and **Will Wright**, one of the producers of "The Echo." Amelia made a good-natured quip about Yam's blog. The three were celebrating with beer. Both Jesse and Amelia were not scheduled to shoot the following day so they got into the festive atmosphere of the party, which we consider the best so far since we began attending this bash.

Jude was still in the ensemble that he wore in our interview with him earlier that day: grey v-necked cashmere sweater, white undershirt, black wool pants and striped Nike sneakers. Colin was more formally dressed in a dark suit although he loosened his tie.

Joaquin was very casually dressed in an un-tucked shirt and jeans, with a spare cigarette perched on his ear. Also present

INTRIGUE/ H2

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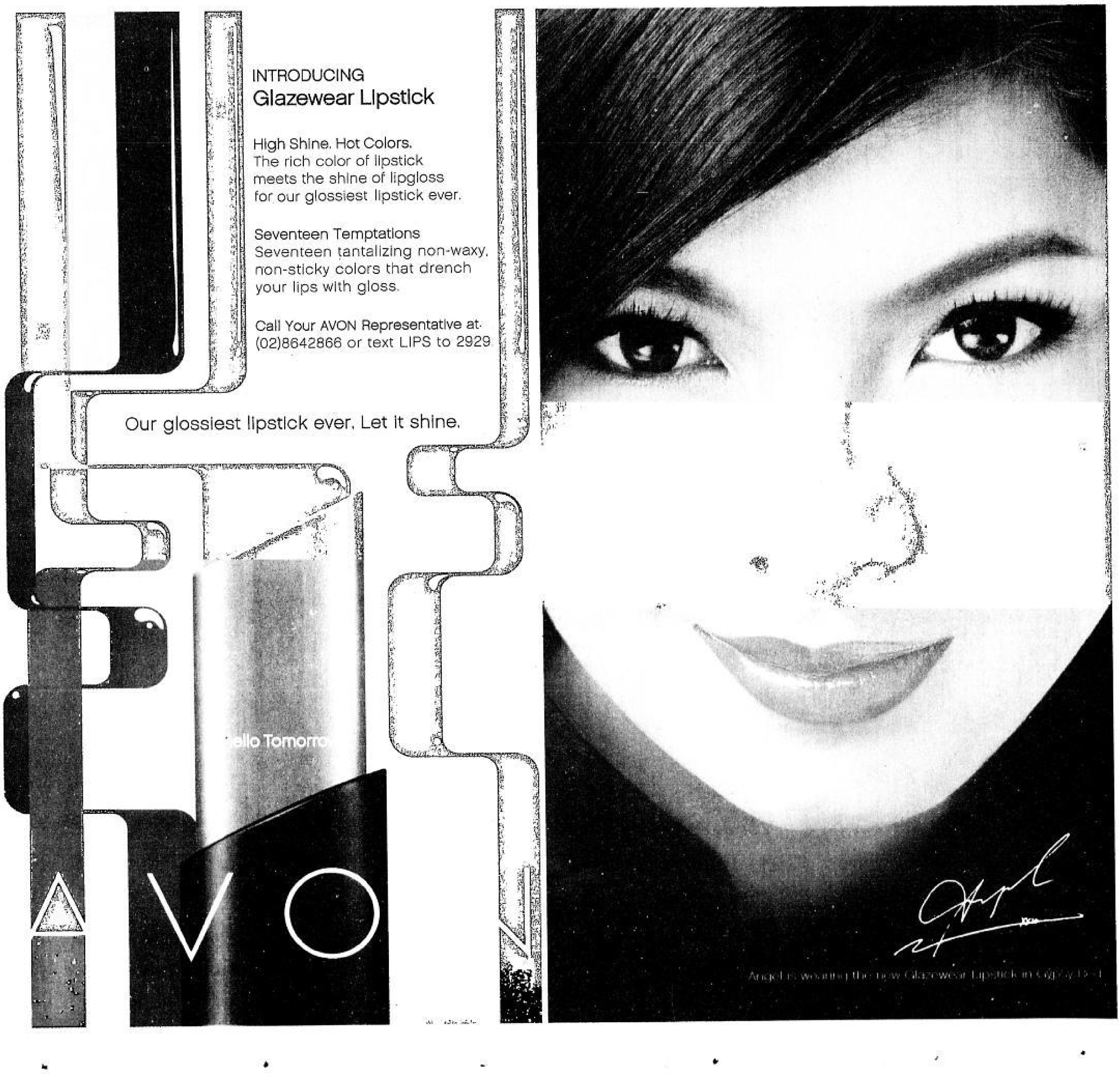

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GALLERIA

1 DISTURBIA • THX
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

2 THE BRAVE ONE
11:05 1:50 4:35 7:20 10:00

3 indieSine: LIGAW LIHAM
1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00

4 UNDERDOG
11:25 1:30 3:35 5:40 7:45 9:50

5 Reserved for VICTORY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP 10:00am

6 Reserved for VICTORY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP 10:00am

7 FOSTER CHILD
1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00

8 ROGUE ASSASSIN
12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00

9 1408
1:30 3:30 5:30 7:30 9:30

10 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

Ligaw Liham

Sometime in the 70's, in a small town in Negros, the post office simply stops its operations. No one knew about this except for the postman and his caretaker. When Nor, finds out about this secret, he finds an opportunity to sway to the dance of love when he assumes the identity of another man. Nor reads the letters hidden in an old warehouse and takes over the pen of Karen's husband who was working in Saigon. Soon after, a correspondence between Nor and Karen takes place. And Nor finds himself truly falling in love.

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ERMITA

1 ROGUE ASSASSIN
10:10 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:25 10:00

2 FOSTER CHILD
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

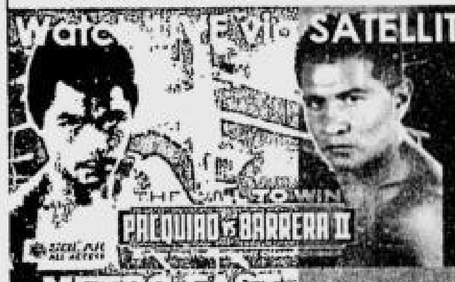
3 UNDERDOG
10:25 12:25 2:25 4:25 6:25 8:25 10:00

4 DISTURBIA
10:10 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:25 10:00

5 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
10:10 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:25 10:00

6 THE BRAVE ONE
11:20 2:00 4:40 7:20 10:00

7 SKINWALKERS / 1408
10:10 12:00 2:00 4:00 / 6:00 8:00 10:00



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2 UNDERDOG
12:30 2:40 4:50 7:00 9:10

3 THE BRAVE ONE
12:45 3:30 6:15 9:00

4 1408
11:20 1:40 4:00 6:30 9:00

5 RUSH HOUR 3
12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00

6 DISTURBIA
12:30 2:40 4:50 3:50 9:00

7 ROGUE ASSASSIN
11:10 1:40 4:10 6:40 9:10

8 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
11:10 1:40 4:10 6:40 9:10

NOVALICHES

1 ROGUE ASSASSIN
2 UNDERDOG
3 THE BRAVE ONE
4 DAYWATCH

PIONEER

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2 UNDERDOG
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3 THE BRAVE ONE
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4 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
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1 THE LAST LEGION / SIGNOS
2 UNDERDOG
3 SINKING Of JAPAN
4 THE BRAVE ONE

1 UNDERDOG
2 THE INVASION
3 THE LAST LEGION
4 RUSH HOUR 3

DA[illegible]

1 ROGUE ASSASSIN
2 UNDERDOG
3 SIGNOS
4 DAYWATCH

1 ROGUE ASSASSIN
2 UNDERDOG
3 THE BRAVE ONE
4 DAYWATCH

ANGELES

1 ROGUE ASSASSIN
2 UNDERDOG
3 HAIRSPRAY
4 DISTURBIA

TARLAC

1 SINKING of JAPAN
2 A LOVE STORY
3 EVAN ALMIGHTY

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4 DISTURBIA

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1 UNDERDOG
2 THE BRAVE ONE
3 DISTURBIA
4 ROGUE ASSASIN

starmall
Mandaluyong tel. [illegible]

3 UNDERDOG
4 I KNOW WHO KILL ME
5 PLEASE CALL

metropolis star
Alabang tel. [illegible]

1 UNDERDOG
2 ROGUE ASSASIN
3 THE BRAVE ONE
4 I KNOW WHO KILL ME

THEATRES

1 THE INVASION
2 RISE
3 SINKING JAPAN

PACIFIC MALL CINEMAGIC

UNDERDOG
THE INVASION
RESERVED
RESERVED

Filmfest
FESTIVAL CINEMA

1 1408
2 EVAN ALMIGHTY
3 I KNOW WHO KILL ME
4 UNDERDOG
5 ROGUE ASSASIN
6 UNDERDOG
THE BRAVE ONE
A LUNE NIGHT
[illegible]
[illegible] / SKINWALKERS

[illegible]

1 THE BRAVE ONE
2 SKINWALKERS
3 UNDERDOG
4 RESERVED

SUPER CINERAMA
[illegible]

1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 THE BRAVE ONE
5 UNDERDOG

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1 DAY WATCH
2 LAST LEGION
3 THE INVASION
4 [illegible]

Maragana CINEMA
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1 UNDERDOG
2 ROGUE ASSASIN
3 I KNOW WHO KILL ME

Center Mall Cinema
[illegible]

1 UNDERDOG
2 THE INVASION

Jade Cinema
[illegible]

1 UNDERDOG
2 ROGUE ASSASIN
3 DON'T LOOK BACK
4 HAIRSPRAY

Centre Plaza Cinema
[illegible]

1 SINKING JAPAN
2 1408

CINEMAS
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1 UNDERDOG
2 THE BRAVE ONE
3 ROGUE ASSASIN
4 DISTURBIA

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1 THE BRAVE ONE
2 THE INVASION
3 UNDERDOG
4

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mal
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1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
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1 SIGNOS
2 PLANET TERROR
3 SINKING JAPAN

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
[illegible]

1 FRACTURE
2 SIGNOS
3 SINKING JAPAN
4 THREE

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
[illegible]

1 LICENSE TO WED / THE INVASION
2 UNDERDOG
3 RISE

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
[illegible]

1 THE INVASION
2 THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM

Llanas Cinema
[illegible]

DON'T LOOK BACK
2 LAST LEGION

Llanas Cinema
[illegible]

SKINWALKERS
2 WALA [illegible]
3 ITLOG
4 LAST LEGION

Llanas MovieCity
[illegible]

1 THE INVASION
2 TAGOS SA LAMAN
3 THE BRAVE ONE
4 LAST LEGION
5 UNDERDOG

Fiesta World Mall
[illegible]

1 LAST LEGION
2 THE INVASION
3 DON'T LOOK BACK
4 UNDERDOG

Berma Cinema
[illegible]

1 FUNERIDOK
2 BATANG MAGDALENA

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

On Harry Pott

LOS ANGELES—DANIEL RADCLIFFE PLAYS AN ORPHAN ONCE again in the new movie "December Boys"—but this time, the "Harry Potter" star doesn't have any magical powers to help get him navigate his adolescent angst.

In the coming-of-age drama, set in 1960s Australia, Radcliffe plays the oldest of four boys in an orphanage who get to spend their Christmas holiday at the beach. The younger ones compete to be adopted by the families they meet, while Radcliffe's character falls hard for a pretty (and very assertive) local girl, with whom he shares cigarettes and his first sexual encounter.

It's the latest opportunity for the actor, who just turned 18, to show he's capable of much more than the iconic role of Harry Potter.

Last year, he did a hilariously deadpan send-up of his wholesome boy-wizard image on the Ricky Gervais comedy "Extras." And earlier this year, he famously appeared naked on the London stage—and earned rave re

---

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THE BRAVE ONE	12:40, 3:10, 5:50, 8:30, 11:05	R-13
WAR: ROGUE ASSASSIN	12:45, 3:05, 5:35, 8:05, 10:40	R-13
UNDERDOG	1:40, 4:25, 6:35, 8:45, 10:55	G
DISTURBIA	1:20, 3:45, 6:10, 8:35, 11:00	PG-13

POWER PLANT
CINEMA

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DOLBY DIGITAL

DISTURBIA PG13 1:00,3:15,5:30, 7:45,10:00	I KNOW WHO KILLED ME R13 1:00,3:20,5:40, 8:00,10:20	UNDERDOG G 11:10,1:10,3:10, 5:10,7:10,9:10
ROGUE ASSASSIN R13 11:40,1:50,4:00, 6:10,8:20,10:30	NANCY DREW G 12:20,2:30,4:40, 6:50,9:00	THE BRAVE ONE R13 12:30,3:00,5:30, 8:00,10:30

MOVIES & SCHEDULES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

SHANG CINEPLEX

① UNDERDOG MTRCB GP 12:45, 3:00, 5:40, 7:50, 10:00

② THE BRAVE ONE MTRCB R-13 11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00

③ ROGUE ASSASSIN MTRCB R-13 12:10, 2:30, 4:50, 7:10, 9:30

④ DISTURBIA (PG-13) 12:20, 2:45, 5:10, 7:35, 10:00

PREMIERE THEATRE UNDERDOG (GP) 12:15, / NANCY DREW (GP) 5:20, 7:30, 9:40

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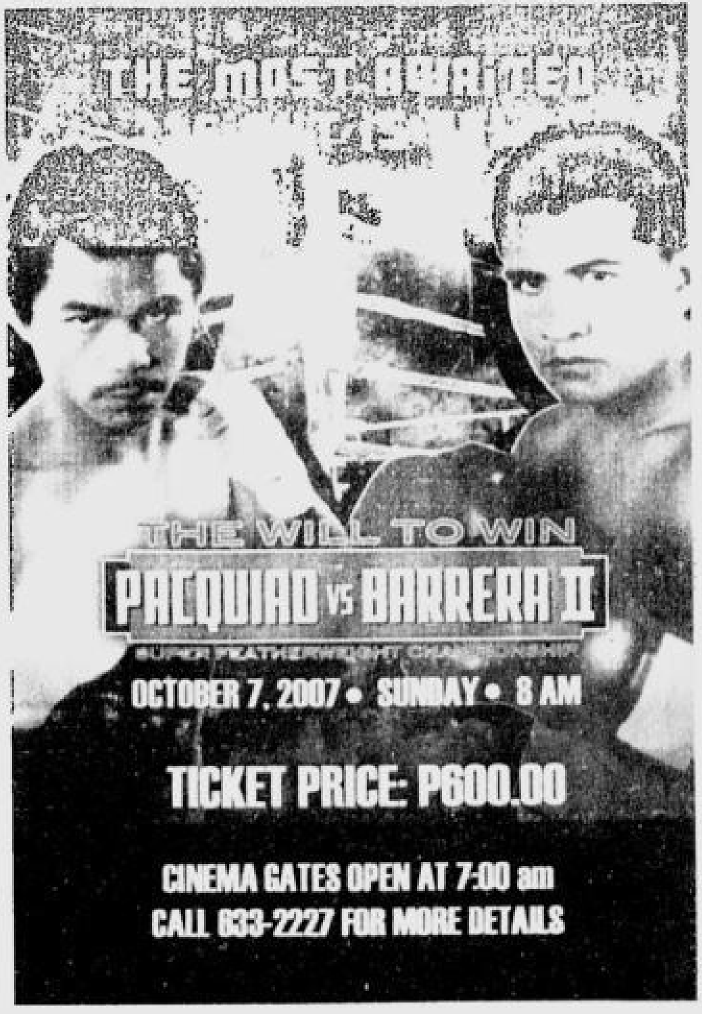

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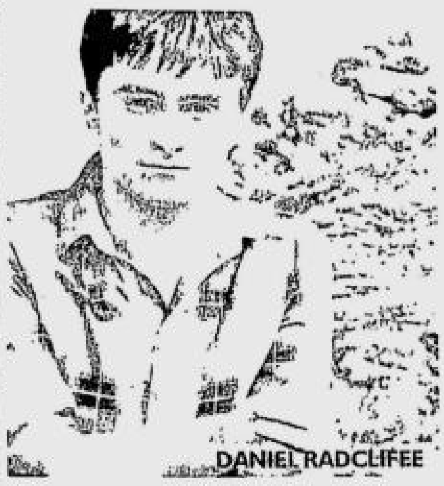

DANIEL RADCLIFFE

'I enjoy the movies, I like watching them, I just don't like watching myself particularly'

views—as a disturbed stable boy in "Equus," which he plans to reprise on Broadway next fall.

The blue-eyed, quick-talking Radcliffe spoke with The Associated Press about all these parts.

Daniel, sitting down on the couch, tugging at his stiff, dark jeans, said, "These are the only pants I have left because I haven't been able to wash stuff so frequently 'cause we've been going from hotel to hotel, and prices on washing underwear, it's like extortion—it's, like, four dollars a pair of underwear."

So what's all this about you doing "Equus" on Broadway?

Yeah, absolutely, hopefully. I'll be starting "Harry Potter 6" and then that will go to the year 2040, and then there's probably going to be a few months' gap in between that—and then "Equus" on Broadway. It should start late next year.

A lot of scrutiny already for you in this role in London—New York audiences are very discerning, as well. What's that going to be like?

I'm going to be pretty nervous about it, of course, but it should be fun. And (co-star) Richard Griffiths has done Broadway before. He was the king of Broadway for a while when he won the Tony for "The History Boys," so I couldn't be with better people.

Is it cold on that stage?

(Smiles) Yes, it's very well air-conditioned.

There's shrinkage?

(Smiles again) There is an element of retraction, certainly.

After the first time, I'm guessing, you get over this a bit.

Oh yeah, you don't care. I don't care—I've done it 128 times.

But everybody else cared and everybody else freaked out when you first got naked.

It was hilarious.

Why is that, do you think?

'Cause, I don't know, maybe they want me to be Peter Pan and stay young forever, some people. It's also, I think, a lot of it is media stirred-up.

And tabloids have fun with puns, of course.

I could write so many good puns, I'm sorry. They've used "Hairy Botter" about five or six times now.

And then there are the obligatory wand puns, of course.

The wand puns, yeah, you can have lots of fun with them.

But you knew that you wanted to be an actor when you were very young, right?

Not really—I only properly decided that I wanted to do it when I was like 13, 14, when I was on "Harry Potter 3."

Really? So you were just messing around for the first couple of Harry Potter?

I wasn't messing around, I was working, I was focusing. But I was having fun—I wasn't thinking, "Oh, this is what I want to do for the rest of my life."

What happened with that one that something clicked inside of you?

I think working with Gary Oldman was pretty inspirational. Working with him for the first time was pretty amazing for me—that's whose career I love. He'd never patronize me enough to give me advice.

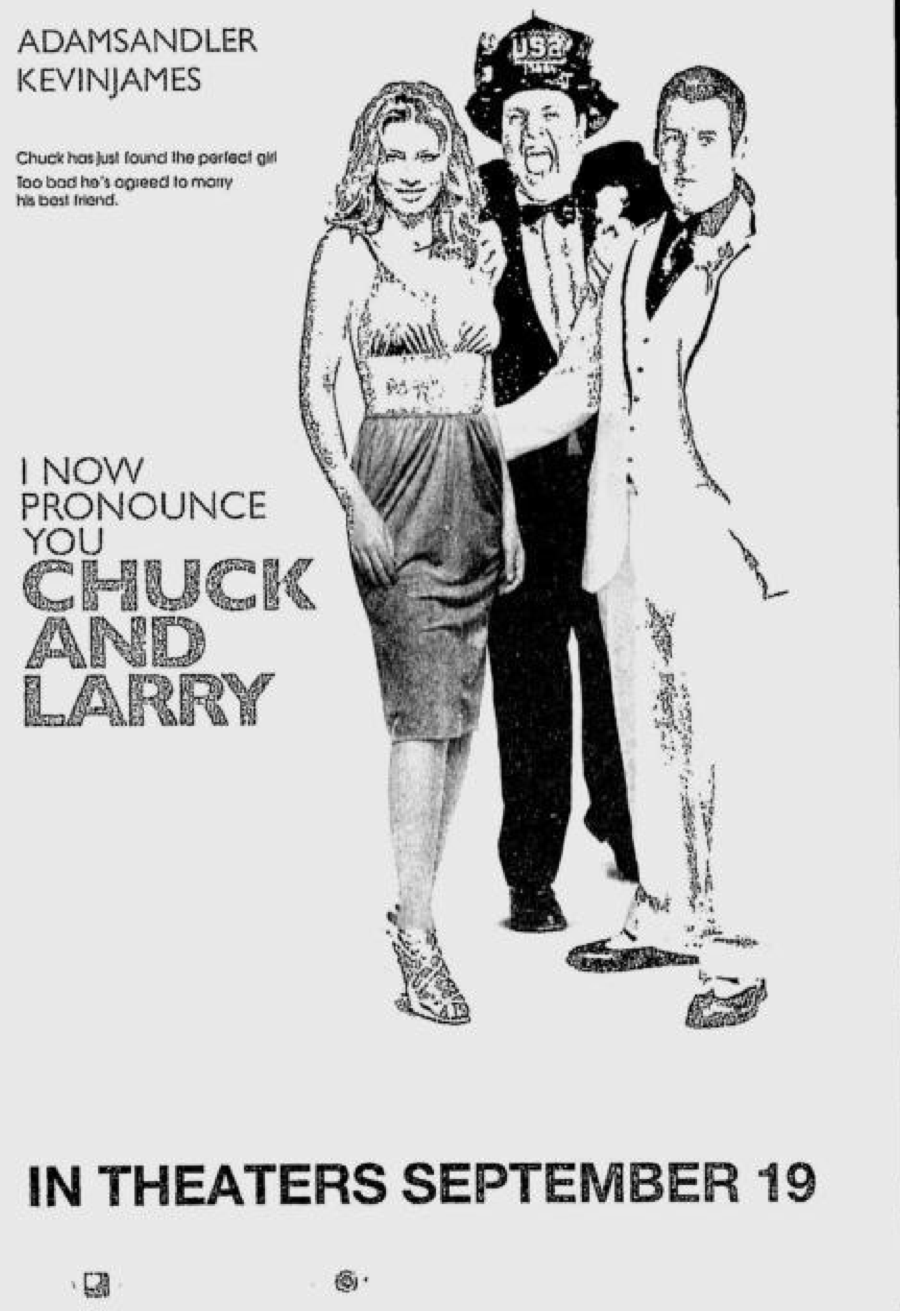
I've read that you haven't felt comfortable watching yourself on screen, is that still true?

I still don't like it. No, I don't think any actor does, really. I enjoy the movies, I like watching them, I just don't like watching myself particularly.

But don't you feel like you've gotten better in each one?

Yeah, absolutely. Oh yeah, no question. But, you know, there's a long way to go.

AP


ADAMSANDLER
KEVINJAMES

Chuck has just found the perfect girl
Too bad he's agreed to marry
his best friend.

I NOW
PRONOUNCE
YOU
CHUCK
AND
LARRY

IN THEATERS SEPTEMBER 19

TOR Jude Law with Fil-Canadian fan Samantha East.

ntrigue in Venice, elebration in oronto

From page H1

re David Schwimmer, Mira and Paul Sorvino, nber Tamblyn, Jennifer Jason Leigh, Mark Ruffa- Eric McCormack, Ben Kingsley, Rachel Leigh ok, Patricia Clarkson and Harvey Weinstein.

spenseful scene

Two days earlier, we watched Yam direct a scene h Jamie Bloch and Pruitt Taylor Vince who play 's daughter and Jesse's neighbor, respectively, in a n studio.

To keep the moviegoers' suspense when they watch ne Echo" perhaps next year, we won't reveal details out this scene except that it takes place in a bath- om. It was spooky even though we knew it was just a oot, so hopefully, that augurs well for the film.

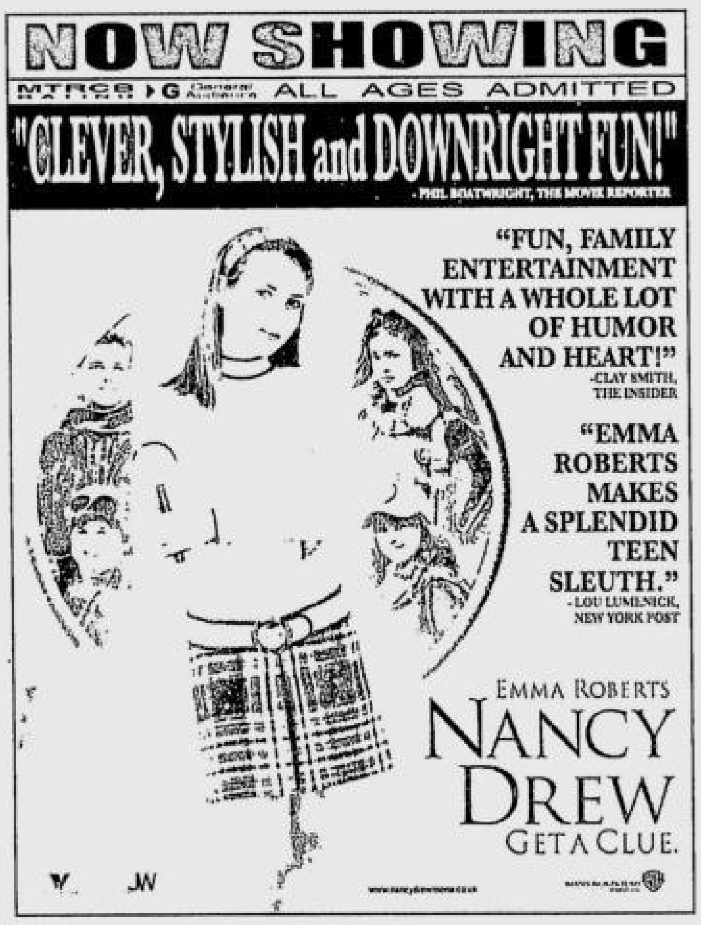
After several takes, Yam led the crew in applauding uitt, who was perspiring heavily after doing his last ne for the film. He introduced us to Shin Shimo- wa, one of the film producers whose credits in- de "The Grudge" and

am gave us a tour of the sets including an elevator, sé's bedroom, the apartment hallway and trash ute—"where a lot of 'scares' happen," Yam said with enigmatic smile. "The film will be scary but dramat- at the same time," he added. In the bathroom scene, dark, atmospheric lighting helped achieved this re- t.

Yam is set to finish the Toronto shoot tomorrow, nday. The production then moves to New York for a ek. After that, he flies to Manila for a three-week . "Just to relax," said Yam, as he drank a Diet Coke r a hard day's work and as we exited the sound- ge. He would need the rest because he will return to to edit the picture. Then it's back to the Philippines the holidays. After Christmas, he returns to Toronto final post-production work. He estimates that the n will be completely done by late March or early ril.

As we drove away from the studio, we cherished this ge of Yam, who was among the smallest guys in a where tall Caucasians were the majority. But he s a giant in our mind because for the first time since have been visiting American movie sets, it was at to see a Filipino calling the shots.

mail the columnist at rvnepales_5585@yahoo.com l read his blog, "The Nepales Report," on www.inrerbloggers.net/nepalesreport.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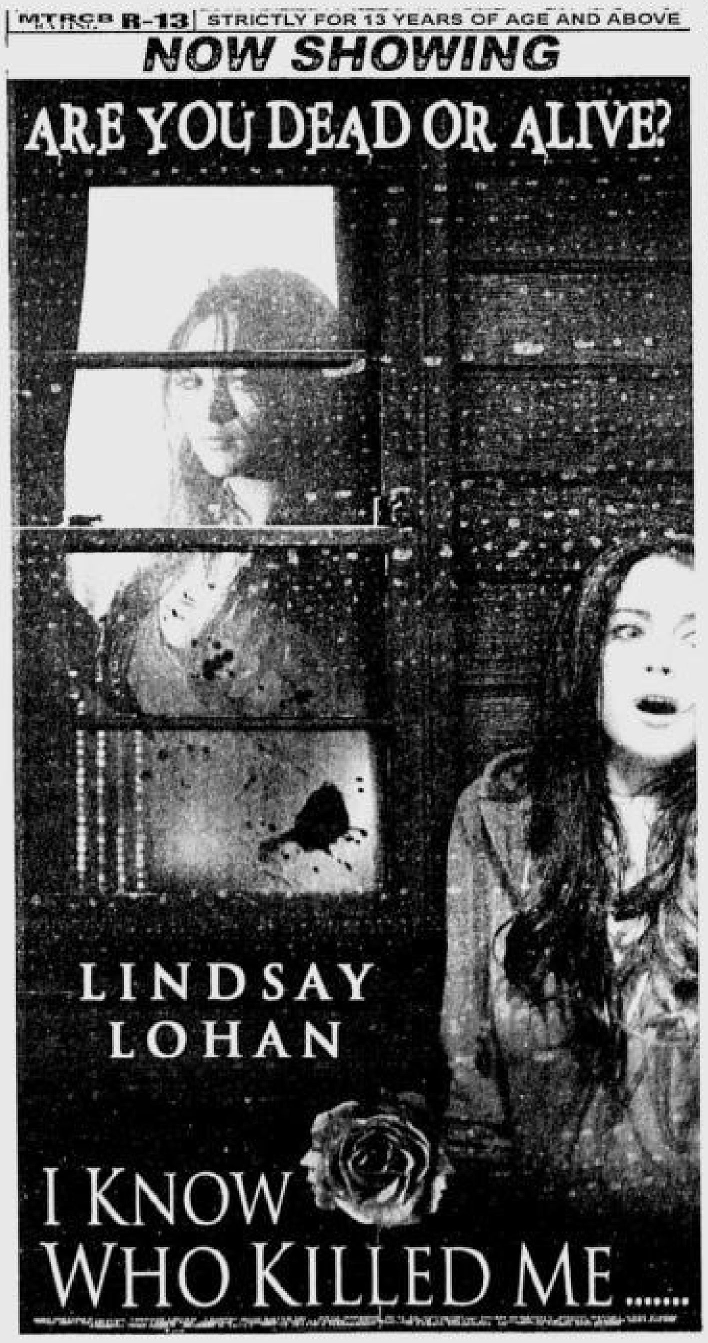
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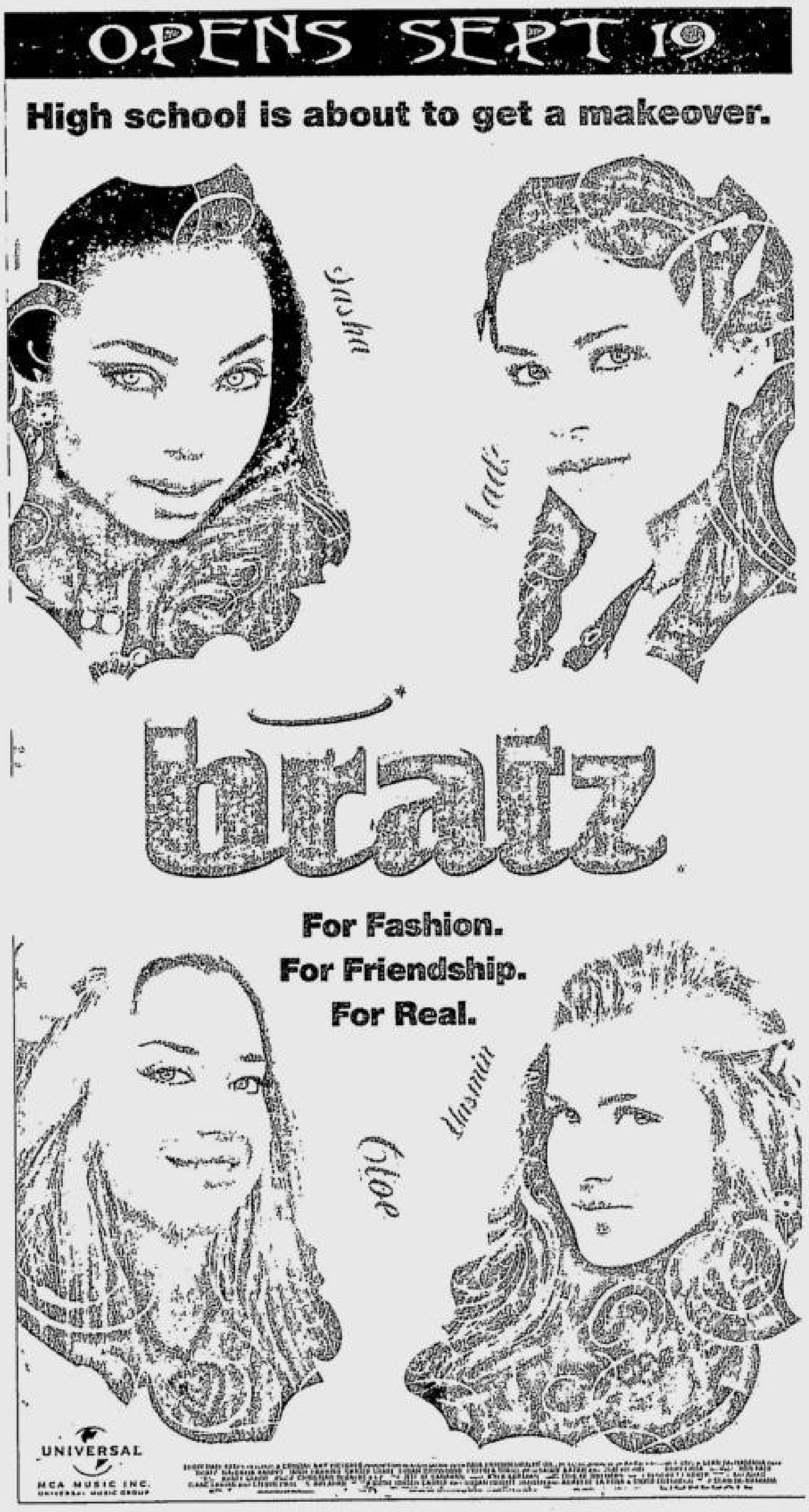
I KNOW WHO KILLED ME ......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We have seen the APOCALYPSE...
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MILLA JOVOVICH
RESIDENT EVIL: EXTINCTION

A consult with Dr. Chase

INQUIRER EXCLUSIVE

Actor Jesse Spencer's character has a newfound confidence in 'House' Season 3

HE COULD play Cuddy (Lisa Edelstein, right) because "she wears cute outfits" says Jesse Spencer (above, center) shown here with co-stars Omar Epps and Hugh Laurie (foreground).

By Ruth L. Navarra

JESSE SPENCER IS KEEPING HIS mouth shut about his recent break-up with ex-fiancée and "House, M.D." co-star Jennifer Morrison.

"I would definitely like to have my personal life personal," he said in a recent interview.

Despite the break-up, the two will continue to collaborate for the third season of the hugely popular "House" series, with Hugh Laurie in the title role. There will be new twists, including one that will put Doctor Robert Chase (Spencer) in a different light.

Spencer said his character would try his hand at surgery and gain a new sense of power over "House." Despite being obviously content with the development of his character, the actor said there weren't too many similarities between him and Chase.

"Well, he looks smarter than I am. I'm more laid-back," he said. "I'm not set out to win. I would like to think I have a bit of a backbone and that I am fairly loyal and not a conniving person."

Asked if he thought of himself as beautiful and sexy after being named by People Magazine as one of the 100 Most Beautiful People in 2007, he had this to say: "Not particularly. I need to shed some weight. I've been eating too much and drinking too much beer in my hiatus."

You come from a family of doctors, what's their reaction to the show?

They do love the show. My brother and his doctor friends come together to do their own diagnosis when the show's on. They're trying to beat 'House.' They get right into it. My brother tells me that he yells and screams and throws things at the television and it's all very dramatic. It's their world and it's all very exciting and challenging for them. We do have interesting, obscure, rare cases in the show. They also occasionally take it apart when we get something wrong. They like to e-mail that some diagnosis is actually this and that and I'm like, 'What? What?'

Do you have first-aid expertise?

I guess I could, I think I could. I probably wouldn't want to. I would love to try stitching someone up because it doesn't look hard, does it? (Laughs.) But not anytime soon.

Would you run to the aid of a stranger?

Here's the thing, I can drive really fast. If someone collapses, I can probably get him to the hospital quick. Apart from that, no. Mouth to mouth, no. In the US, you get sued if you help someone and you hurt them. You're better off walking away.

If you could play another character in the show, who would it be?

I'd like to play Cuddy because she wears really cute outfits. I think walking around in drag is cool (laughs). I could probably play Wilson

(Robert Sean Leonard), too, because I like that 'House' has a best friend that he confides in.

How do you rate your success?

Basically [it feels like] I won the lottery.

"House, M.D." Season 3 starts tomorrow, Sept. 17, 10 p.m. on AXN.

All-new cooking series on Discovery Travel & Living

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"COOKING IT," AN ALL-NEW SERIES on Discovery Travel & Living, shows viewers that haute cuisine isn't so difficult to whip up.

Host and chef Jun Tanaka turns culinary incompetents into cooking connoisseurs in the eight-part, 30-minute series airing every Wednesday beginning Sept. 19 from 8 to 8:30 p.m.

Episodes encore the following day at 1 a.m.

Food lover and cookery teacher Jun Tanaka hosts.

TV CHEF Jun Tanaka

Dating show on ETC

"Parental Control" is a dating show where mom and dad choose candidates to date their kid whose current love interest is unacceptable.

The show begins with mom and dad taking their pick. Then they plan and carry out the date. Airs Monday to Friday, 6 p.m., on ETC.

'700 Club' on TBN

"The 700 Club Asia," a weekly program produced by the Christian Broadcasting Network Asia, goes international over Trinity Broadcasting Network Channel 39 via Destiny Cable, from Monday to Friday, 9-9:30 p.m.

Locally, the program can be viewed on free-TV channel QTV 11 Monday to Friday, 11:30 p.m.

'Pasan' on GMA

The Kapuso Network brings "Pasan Ko Ang Daigdig," the newest Sine Novela to hit television via GMA's Dramarama Sa Hapon.

Under the direction of Joel Lamangan, "Pasan Ko" stars Yasmien Kurdi as Lupe Velez, a scavenger in Payatas who seeks alms while carrying on her back her disabled mother Metring, played by Gina Alajar.

Knowing she has a talent in singing, Lupe promises herself to end her misery by using her gift to become rich.

The series also stars JC de Vera, Polo Ravales, Alessandra de Rossi, Gary Estrada, Marcus Madrigal, Jenine Desiderio, Maureen Larrazabal, Mart Escudero, Jennica Garcia, Tony Mabesa, Jim Pebangco, Sweet Ramos and Raquel Villavicencio.

'Ellen' on 2nd Avenue

Now in its fifth season, "The Ellen Degeneres Show" offers a mix of candid celebrity interviews, musical guest performances, hilarious sketches and anything the host can conjure up with her wit and sense of humor.

The interactive talk show airs weeknights at 7 p.m. on 2nd Avenue, seen on channel 53 on SkyCable, 28 Destiny and other cable affiliates.

GINA Alajar and Yasmien Kurdi

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JOEY de Leon mimic Bobby Tuvillo and the Lola Divas start the ball rolling at the new place.
PHOTOS BY JIM GUAIO PUNZALAN

This Library is not just for bookworms

Malate's trend-setting comedy bar has a new address

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

HE SOUNDS EARNEST, BUT since Andrew de Real owns the famous sing-along/comedy bar, it could also be a joke.

"I used to say that my dream was to own a place as big as the National Library," he quips. He never imagined that The Library, which opened its doors to Malate night owls 22 years ago, would ever need to move to a bigger venue.

From the 270 sq. m. hole-in-the-wall on Adriatico Street, it recently transferred to a 600 sq. m. property on Orosa Street, also in Malate.

Pop culture landmark

"The original could seat only 180 people; this new one, 300," says De Real, known as Mamu in show biz circles. (He also built a cozy acoustic/dance bar called Fab next door.)

To think that he kept postponing the move. He recalls, "We extended the lease on the Adriatico place for two more years. I found it hard to leave."

Malate habitués regard the original as a pop culture landmark, having produced the current, and also emerging, superstars in local comedy—Arnell Ignacio, Ai-Ai de las Alas, Philip Lazaro, Rey Kilay, Vice Ganda and Pooh.

According to De Real, Library was born on the eve of the first Edsa Revolution and, as such, benefited from the era's uncertainty and/or sense of reckless abandon.

"At the start, the jokes onstage revolved around politics," he recounts. "For example: If Imee and Irene Marcos were stranded on a desert island, who would survive? At the time, Arnell was always *ngarag* (spaced out) because he needed to memorize new scripts every night."

The comedy bar's lineup of shows evolved with the changing times. "We started doing 'Nura at Velma,' as well as other concept shows," says De Real.

"Nura at Velma" was a huge smash for lead stars Allan K and Leonardo Obal who played ra

THIS/12

VICE Ganda, Poca and Anton Diva shock 'em with rowdy jokes.

THURSDAY Group interprets scenes from "Cats" on opening night.

Four films to represent RP in Korean film fest

By Marinel R. Cruz

THE FILM DEVELOPMENT Council of the Philippines (FDCP) is bringing four films to Korea to represent the country in the Pusan International Film Festival, Oct. 4 to 11.

The FDCP Festival Committee (FC) will subsidize the trips of directors Aureaus Solito ("Pisay"), Dante Mendoza ("Foster Child" and "Tirador") and Jim Libiran ("Tribu"), whose films were invited for exhibition, according to FDCP chair Jacky Atienza.

The newly formed FC provides funding for movie producers invited to international festivals.

The agency will participate in the 2007 Asian International Film Market, also in Pusan, by selling distribution rights of the four films, as well as Marilou Diaz-Abaya's "Muro-Ami"

FOUR/12

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No: 2453 Series of 2007

REVIEW

Sing along with the stars

The fun spirit makes 'Celebrity Duets' easy to watch

By Oliver M. Pulumbarit
Contributor

PROFESSIONALS WHO HAVE MADE names for themselves in other fields give singing a shot in the local version of "Celebrity Duets" (GMA 7, Saturdays, 6:30 p.m.). While some of the celeb contestants admit to being tone-deaf, lacking the ability to carry a tune, or being plain inexperienced, they do their best anyway because they're paired up in competition numbers with some of the most talented and popular local singers.

In the fifth episode, talent managers Wyngard Tracy and Jessica Rodriguez-Bunevacz, party chroniclers Tessa Prieto-Valdes and Tim Yap, and cosmetic doctors Hayden Kho and Manny Calayan formed an interesting balance, their individual performance numbers spiced up by yet another set of veteran and contemporary crooners and recording artists. It was a diverse lineup—Basil Valdez, Pops Fernandez, Manilyn Reynes, Janet Basco, Jennylyn Mercado and even comedian Allan K backed up their inexperienced partners in

"CELEBRITY Du contender Tessa Prieto-Valdes has most colorful costumes.

AT THE opening of the Mayor Isko Moreno, an

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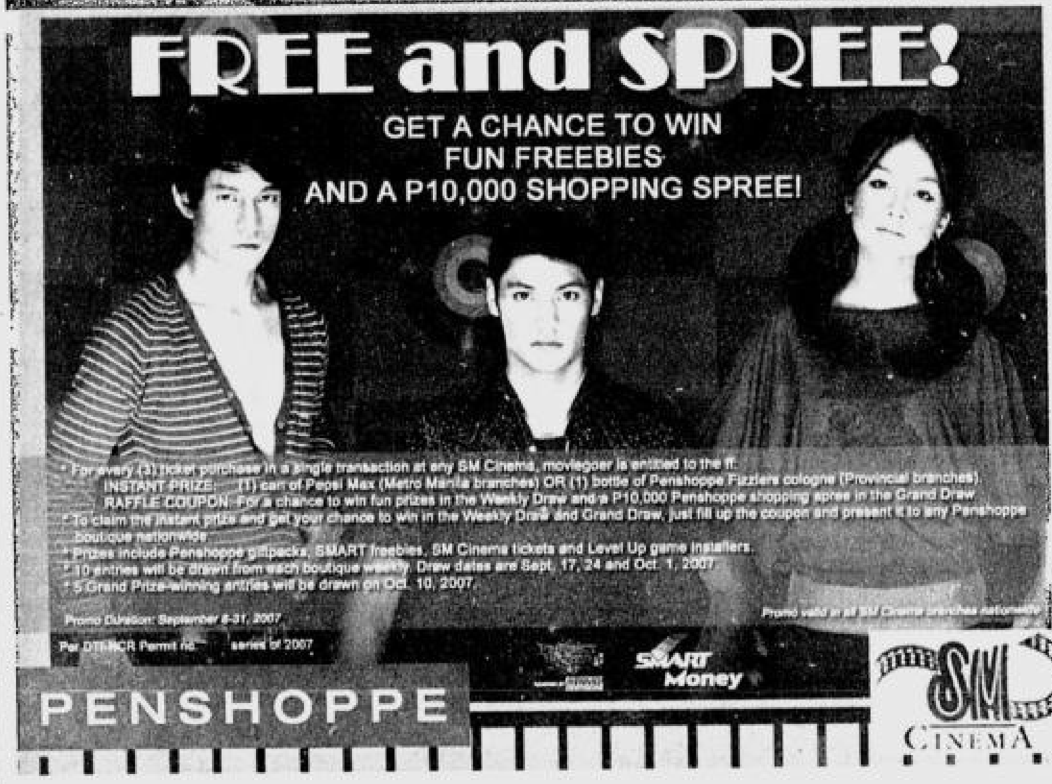

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mostly fun and playful duets.

As with most reality game shows, a lot depends on text voting, and the ultimate winner of "Celebrity Duets" will be the one voters favor the most. Since it's basically a popularity contest, "campaign" gimmicks are allowed (Rodriguez-Bunevacz hands out flyers in public places, etc.). So it doesn't necessarily mean that the eventual winner is the most talented. Still, they're motivated, as victory may benefit the amateur singer's charity of choice as well.

The competitors are judged by a trio of music veterans—Louie Ocampo, Mitch Valdez and Buboy Garovillo. Since the contestants are newbies and the show has a not-serious tone, the critiques aren't harsh at all. The comments are generally fair, truthful and, almost always, forgiving of the amateurs' weaknesses. The contenders' visual packaging, an indispensable aspect of entertaining, is acknowledged, so gimmicks like costumes, dance moves, and props make some of the renditions lively.

Yap's flashy Buzz Lightyear getup in a previous episode, for instance, colorfully enhanced his and Yasmien Kurdi's performance of Rivermaya's "Kisapmata." Calayan's unexpected team-up with Allan K, who acted as a straight guy during their version of "Si Aida, Si Lorna, Si Fe," worked as a funny and deliberately silly song-sketch number. Rodriguez-Bunevacz's interpretation of "Fever" with vampy Vernie Varga had the obligatory sexy choreography. And Prieto-Valdes' wardrobe never runs out of brightly hued outfits and props to match her selection of chart-topping pop ditties.

The list of guest performers continues to impress. Aside from the aforementioned artists, Pilita Corrales, Billy Crawford, Kitchie Nadal, Nonoy Zuñiga and Joey Generoso, among others, have appeared to help out the non-pros, with favorable results.

The show has some noticeable jumpy editing between performances, though, which often affect segues. But transition gaffes aside, the show's loose, fun spirit makes "Celebrity Duets" easy to watch and worth tuning in to.

new Library, from L: owner Andrew de Real, Manila Vice-
d comedians Tessie Tomas and Pooh.

This Library is not…

From page 11

bid' fans of rival superstars Nora Aunor and Vilma Santos.

The Library continues to "reinvent" itself, says De Real, "constantly discovering and training new talents."

An aspiring comic goes through a screening committee composed of Library graduates, led by Lazaro, De Real explains. "We want to make sure that the newcomers are really talented. They also go through rigorous workshops before we launch them."

De Real considers these newbies as promising: Poca, a gay Lani Misalucha mimic; Krista Mae, a female Rufa Mae Quinto impersonator; and Bobby Tuvillo, a dead ringer for Joey de Leon.

"Bobby used to be a drag queen and one time, I saw him without makeup," De Real says:. "I told him that he'd be a hit as Joey de Leon. My only request was that he treat Joey with respect."

Unique design concept

True enough, when Bobby made his debut last weekend, the regulars adored him.

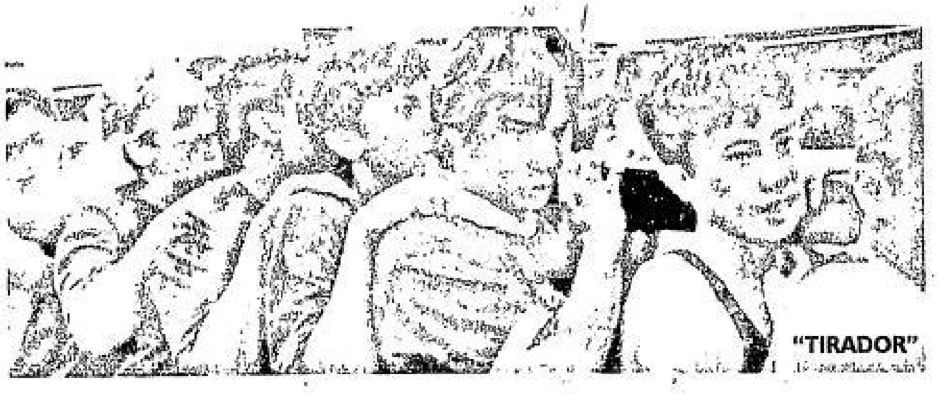
It's a good guess that Library groupies would feel at ease in the new place because it showcases the same décor and memorabilia. "These include caricatures of past Philippine presidents made by LVN actor Jaime de la Rosa. I found them abandoned in an antique shop," De Real says.

It also sustains the same unique design concept—walls of shelves lined with over 2,000 books, and waiters clad in graduation toga.

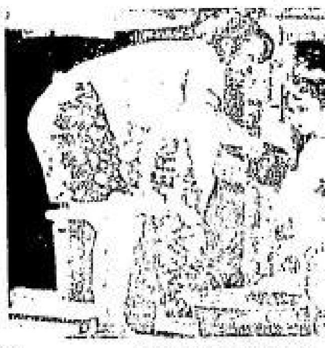
How erudite.

"I started a book drive among my celebrity friends," De Real says. Shyr Valdez, Lynn Tamayo, Joy Cancio and Melissa Perez-Rubio donated volumes. We even have 'Harry Potter' novels 1 to 7. Guests can actually pull out the books and read. They can even do research if they're so inclined."

Then again, when a person wanders into Malate, higher learning is the last thing on his mind.



"TIRADOR"



"FOSTER Child"

"PISAY"

Four films to represent RP …

From page 11

and Toppel Lee's "Ouija" to global buyers.

According to Atienza, the film market coincides with the launching of the Asian Film Commissions Network (AFCNet), where the Philippines will have a booth. "We will offer production services and try to get foreign productions to shoot in the Philippines," he said.

Marketing videos and Philippine maps will be available during the event, added FDCP vice chair Christine Dayrit.

The Philippine delegation, which includes Tourism Secretary Ace Durano and Korea Tourism attaché Maricon Ebron, flies to Korea on Oct. 8

MOWELFUND FILM INSTITUTE'S
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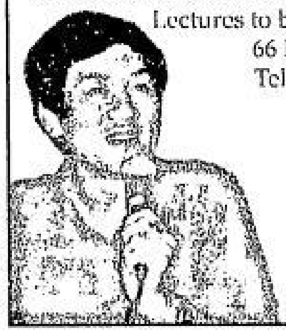
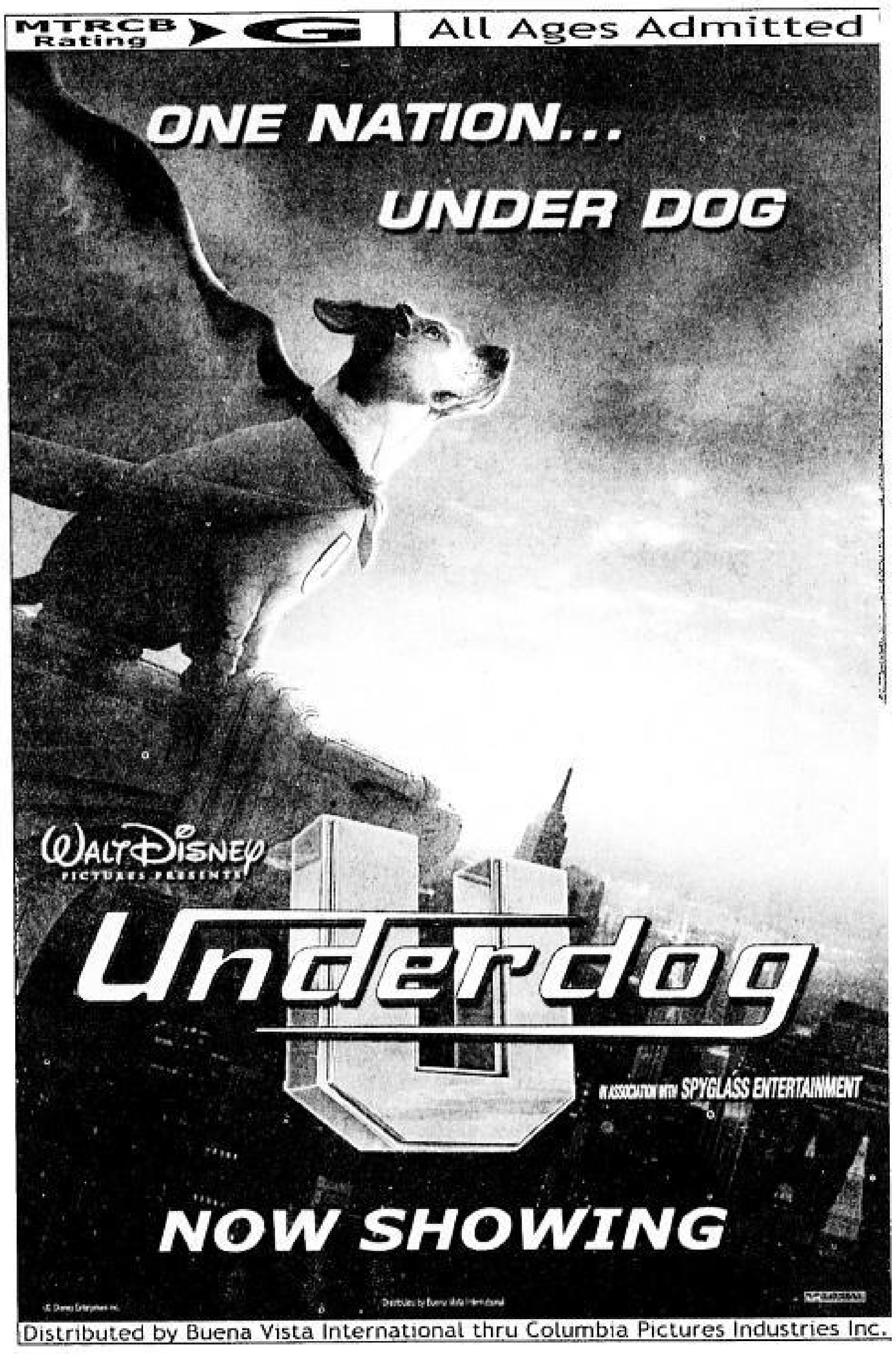


Author and Filmmaker
Nick Deocampo



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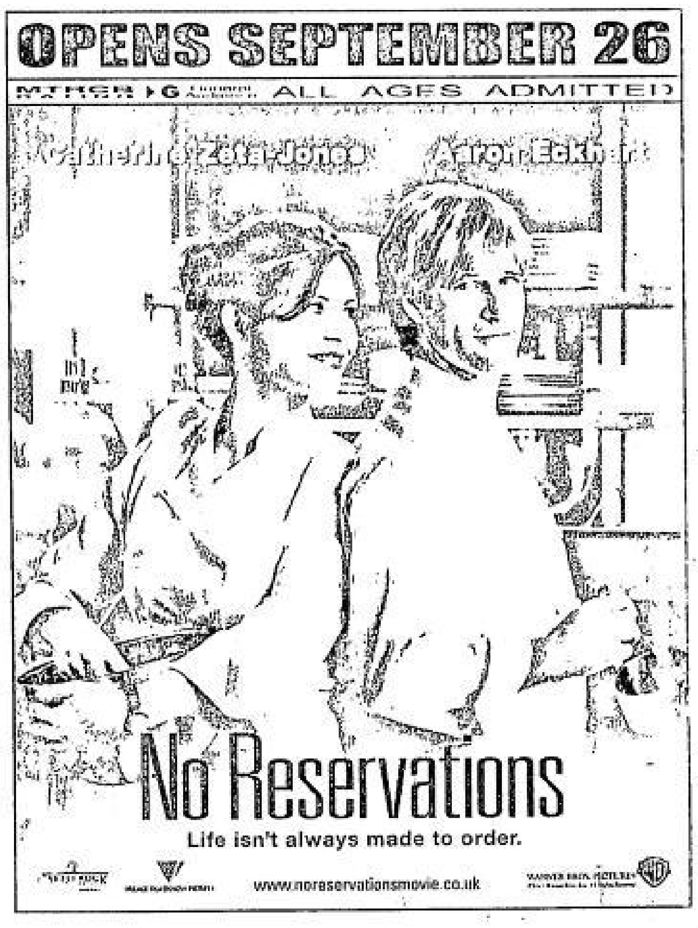

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Catherine Zeta-Jones Aaron Eckhart
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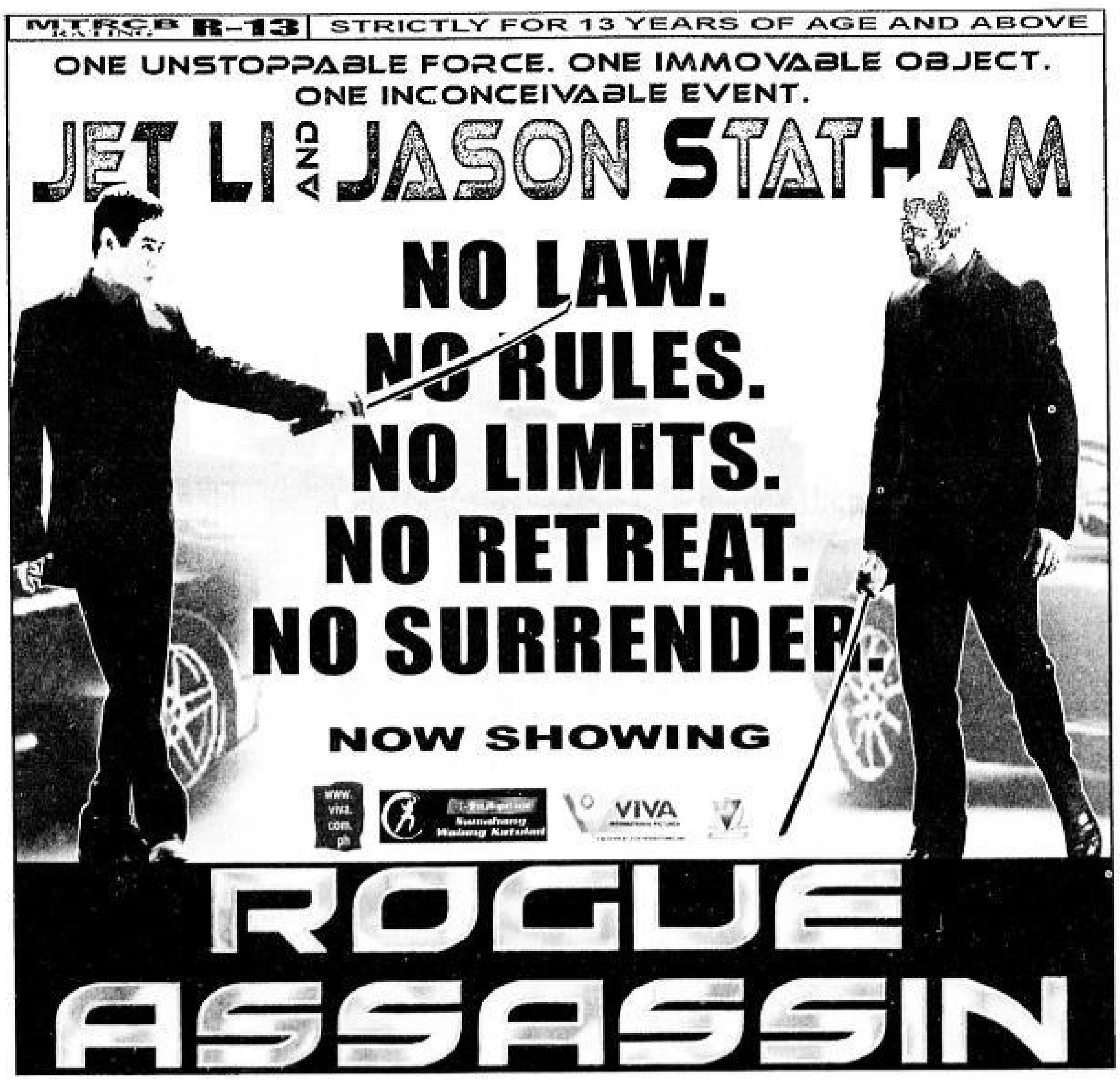

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SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2007

The ***CHAPEL*** *of*
SAINTS
PADRE PIO *and*
PHILOMENA
would like to invite
everyone to a ***Healing***
Mass *to be officiated by*
Fr. Teo Rustia
to be held on ***Friday,***
September 21, 2007
at ***12 noon.***
This mass will be held in
anticipation of the
Feast of St. Padre Pio on the
23rd of September.
The chapel is located at the
4th Floor of Goodwill Building
393 Senator Gil J. Puyat Avenue,
Makati City.
For further details, you may
call (632) 895.86.84

Healing Mass

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Davao del Sur
CITY OF DIGOS
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE (BAC)

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Date: 26 August 2007
Contract ID No.: SP-RM-000-IS-13
World Bank Loan No. 4446PH

The Government of the Philippines has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development toward the cost of the Local Government Finance and Development (LOGOFIND) Project, and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this loan to eligible payments under the contract for which this Invitation for Bids is issued. Bidding will be governed by the World Bank's eligibility rules and procedures.

The City Government of Digos now invites sealed bids from eligible Bidders for the ***Supply, Delivery and Installation of Computerized Real Property Tax Administration (RPTA) System.*** The contract completion is within six (6) months.

Bidding will be conducted using the National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedures specified in the World Bank's Guidelines on Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits and is open to all Bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the Guidelines.

Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from the **Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) Secretariat, Office of CGSO, City Government Center, Jose Abad Santos St., Digos City** at telephone no (082) 553-8361. A complete set of bidding documents in English may be purchased on **September 17 - 24, 2007** during office hours from 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM, Monday to Friday at the same address as above for Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00), after presenting a letter of Intent. This amount is non-refundable. The method of payment will be in the form of cash or cashier's check. The bidding documents may be secured personally or dispatched promptly via courier.

Bids shall be valid for a period of ninety (90) days and must be delivered to the **BAC Secretariat, Office of CGSO, City Government Center, Jose Abad Santos St., Digos City** on or before **October 24, 2007 at 10:00AM.** All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in accordance to the following table of amounts and form

	Form of Security	Minimum Amount in % of Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid
1.	Cash, certified check, cashier's check manager's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit	One percent (1%)
2.	Bank guarantee	One and a half percent (1-1/2%)
3.	Surety Bond	Two and a half percent (2-1/2%)
4.	Foreign government guarantee	One hundred percent (100%)

Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened at Conference Room, Office of the City Mayor, City Government Center, Jose Abad Santos St., Digos City, 1:00 PM on October 24, 2007 in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend. The estimated budget for the contract is **Nine Million Four Hundred Twenty-two Thousand One Hundred Sixty-one Philippine Pesos (P9,422,161.00).**

A pre-bid conference will be held on **October 12, 2007, 10:00AM at the Conference Room, Office of the City Mayor, City Government Center, Jose Abad Santos St., Digos City.**

The attention of prospective Bidders is drawn to (i) the fact that they will be required to certify in their bids that all software is covered by a valid license or was produced by the Bidder, and (ii) that violations are considered fraud, which is among other remedies, punishable by potential blacklisting from participation in future World Bank-financed procurement.

The Purchaser reserves the right to accept or reject any bid or to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the Bidders.

(Sgd.) JESUS B. UY, JR.
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee
City Government Center, Jose Abad Santos St.
Digos City, 8002 Davao del Sur

(PDI – Sept. 9 & 16, 2007)

SULTAN KUDARAT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
Tacurong City, Sultan Kudarat
Tels: 064-200-3155/ 4050; 064-477-0326; Fax: 064-200-3156

INVITATION FOR BIDS

The Sultan Kudarat Electric Cooperative, Inc. (SUKELCO) invites Sealed Bids from Eligible Bidders for different projects funded under General Fund:

1. Line Constructions at different Barangays of Sen. Ninoy Aquino, Sultan Kudarat which includes materials, labor (including ROW) clearing, and hauling and overhead charges for the following projects:

	3-Phase	1-Phase	U.B.	O.S	Total Project Cost
1. Brgy. Gapok, SNA	8.272	1.260	8.007	1.460	7,100,158.88
2. Brgy. Sewod, SNA	6.994	0.310	4.684	0.545	4,632,825.93
3. Brgy. Limuhay, SNA		2.438	2.078	0.400	1,217,823.65
4. Brgy. Langgal, SNA		4.835	2.370	1.185	2,051,862.77
Total Km of Lines	15.266	8.843	17.139	3.590	15,002,671.23

2. Supply and Delivery of Construction Materials for Brgy. Kraan, Palimbang, Sultan Kudarat with maximum material cost of Php 1, 284,425.93
3. Supply and Delivery of Special Equipment Materials
4. Supply and Delivery of Material Requirement for Big Loads.

Interested eligible bidders may obtain additional information and inspect Bidding Documents at the office of the ISD Manager/ BAC Chairman Guia R. Victorio

Bidding Documents may be purchased, starting **September 20, 2007** by an interested Eligible Bidder upon submission of written application to the BAC Chairman and upon payment of a non-refundable fee amounting to Five Thousand Pesos (Php 5,000.00) for item number one and one-time-pay of Two Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (Php 2,500.00) for items two, three and four.

Sealed envelope containing the technical and financial proposals in separate envelopes duly marked as such will be received by the BAC at the Board Room on or before 10:00 A.M., **October 4, 2007** at which time and place the technical proposals will be opened and evaluated. The financial proposals of bidders found eligible to bid will then be opened and read in the presence of Bidder's representatives who choose to attend, otherwise, they will be returned unopened to ineligible bidders.

A pre-bid conference will be held on **September 24, 2007** at 10:00 A.M at the Board Room.

All bids submitted must be accompanied by a bid security, in cash or cashier's check, in the amount of equivalent to 2-1/2% of the amount of bid. This bid security shall be valid at least 150 days starting from the date of bid opening.

The Sultan Kudarat Electric Cooperative, Inc. hereby reserves the right to reject any or all bids without disclosing any reason, to waive any minor defects of infirmities therein and to accept such bid as may be considered most advantageous to the cooperative.

Noted by:

(Sgd.) **DEMETRIO O. JEREZ**
General Manager

(Sgd.) **GUIA R. VICTORIO**
BAC Chairman

(PDI – Sept. 16 & 17, 2007)

---

sbma

Office of the Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee (BAC)
Bldg. 255, Rm. 223 Barryman Road, Subic Bay Freeport Zone, Philippines 2222
☎ (047) 252-4713/4483 Fax No (047) 252-4472

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

Republic of the Philippines

RENOVATION OF MCO BUILDING, PHASE III

MCO Compound, Rizal Highway corner Magsaysay Avenue, SBFZ

Project Description/Scope of Works

The proposed Project shall include but not limited to the provisions of labor, materials, tools, equipment, application/securing of all permits and other incidentals necessary to complete the, renovation of an office building including construction of new entrance door canopy with concrete landing / steps; rehabilitation of existing toilet room including de-clogging of pipeline, installation of new wall partitions, ceiling works, tile works, painting works and electrical works for the **Proposed Renovation of MCO Building, Phase III.**

1. The Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA), through its Corporate Budget for 2007 intends to apply the sum of **One Million and Five Hundred Thousand Pesos (Php1.5Million)** being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the **Proposed Renovation of MCO Building Phase III.** Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. The SBMA now calls for the submission of **Letters of Intent (LOIs)** and **Application for Eligibility** from potential Bidders to apply for eligibility for the **Proposed Renovation Of MCO Building Phase III.** Bidders should possess a valid PCAB license applicable to the above type and cost of the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least fifty percent (50%) of the ABC, and meet the other minimum eligibility requirements stated in the Eligibility Documents. The BAC will use non-discretionary pass/fail criteria in the Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids.
3. All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of RA 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).
4. Information on BAC activities is as follows:

Item No.	BAC Activities	Schedule	Address
1	Receipt from prospective bidders of LOIs including Application for Eligibility and Issuance of Eligibility Forms	September 17-21, 2007 September 24 & 25, 2007 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM	BAC Chairman c/o Engineering Department, Room 223, Bldg. 255, Barryman Road, Subic Bay Freeport Zone (SBFZ) Tel. #s: (047) 252-4191/4192 Fax #: (047) 252-4472
2.	Receipt of Eligibility Requirements	September 26-27, 2007 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM	BAC Secretariat, Room 203, Bldg 255, Barryman Road, SBFZ Tel. #s: (047) 252-4783 Fax #: (047) 252-4780
3.	Notice of Results of Eligibility Check	October 2, 2007 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM	Same address on Item 2
4.	Issuance of Bid Documents	October 3-5, 2007 October 8-9, 2007 8:00 AM to 5:00 P.M.	Same address on Item 1
5.	Pre-bid Conference	October 10, 2007 2:00 PM	PPMD Conference Room, Bldg. 255, Barryman Road, SBFZ
6.	Receipt and Opening of Bids	October 22, 2007 2:00 PM	Same address on Item 5

5. The BAC will issue to prospective bidders Eligibility Forms at the above address upon their submission of a LOI and Application for Eligibility, and upon their payment of a non-refundable fee of **Two Thousand Pesos (Php2,000.00).**
6. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Bidders that passed the eligibility check upon presentation of the Notice of Eligibility and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **Five Thousand Pesos (Php5,000.00).**
7. Relevant Requirement: Minimum PCAB Registration and Classification License:

   General Building
   GB-1 Building or Industrial Plant
   Small B
8. Completion of the Works is required by **Sixty (60) calendar days** from the date stated in the Notice to Proceed.
9. The SBMA reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, in accordance with the provisions of RA 9184 without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) **HERMENEGILDO J. ATIENZA III**
BAC Vice Chairman

(PDI – Sept. 16, 2007)

TransCo
National Transmission Corporation

September 4, 2007

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Furnishing, Delivering, Installing, Testing and Commissioning of 230kV Substation Equipment and its associated Control, Protection and Communication Equipment for Concepcion and Clark Substations (Sp07.CNCK.Li-0104)

1. The **NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION (TRANSCO)**, through its **Annual Corporate Budget**, intends to apply the sum of **Philippine Peso 827,100,000.00** for the Furnishing, Delivering, Installing, Testing and Commissioning of 230 kV Substation Equipment and its associated Control, Protection and Communication Equipment for Concepcion and Clark Substations (Sp07.CNCK.Li-0104) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the above project. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. **TRANSCO** now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the **Furnishing, Delivering, Installing, Testing and Commissioning of 230 kV Substation Equipment and its associated Control, Protection and Communication Equipment for Concepcion and Clark Substations.** Delivery and Installation of the GOODS is required within **Five Hundred Forty (540) calendar days from contract effectivity.** The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section 1B of the Bidding Documents, ITB.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is open to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorship, organizations, and to Foreign bidders. Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine the bid's responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) determined after the conduct of the post-qualification evaluation.
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further Information from **TRANSCO** and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address stated in Item 10 starting **September 10, 2007 from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.**
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address stated below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of *Philippine Peso 40,000.00.* The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. **TRANSCO** will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on **October 18, 2007, 9:00 A.M.** at *C.U. Del Rosario Conference Hall B & C, Power Training Center Building, National Transmission Corporation, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City, Metro Manila, Philippines.*
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered at the venue of the bid opening stated in Item 8 on or before **9:00 A.M. of November 9, 2007.** All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form and in the amount specified in Section III of the Bidding Documents. BDS. Late Bids shall not be accepted.
8. Bid opening shall be held on **November 9, 2007, 9:00 A.M.** at *C.U. Del Rosario Conference Hall B & C, Power Training Center Building, National Transmission Corporation, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City, Metro Manila, Philippines.* Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives.
9. **TRANSCO** reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder/s.
10. Additional information shall be furnished upon request. All communications should be addressed to the BAC Secretariat at the following address.

MR. R. D. NABONG
Manager, Bids and Contracts Management Department (BCMD)
Ground Floor, TransCo Main Building, Power Center
National Transmission Corporation, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road
1104 Diliman, Quezon City, Metro Manila, PHILIPPINES
Telephone Nos.: (632) 921-2308; 981-2212; 981-2213
Telefax No.: (632) 981-2308
Email Address: rdnabong@transco.ph
Website address: http://www.transco.ph

(Sgd.) ATTY. NOEL Z. DE LEON
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – September 8 & 16, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. (632) 929-6626 to 29 * (632) 929-6252
929-6620 * 929-6633 to 35 * 929-7041 to 43

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Republic of the Philippines
Second Land Administration and Management Project (LAMP2)
Supply and Delivery of Motor Vehicles
IFB No. LAMP 2-NCB-G-02-2007
Loan No. 7298-PH

1. The Government of the Philippines (GOP) has received a loan from the World Bank toward the cost of Second Land Administration Management Project (LAMP II), and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this loan to payments under the contract for the **Supply and Delivery of Motor Vehicles with Contract No. LAMP 2-NCB-G-02-2007.**
2. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the **Supply and Delivery of Motor Vehicles.** Delivery of the goods will be made within forty-five (45) calendar days upon receipt of Notice to Proceed (NTP). The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.
3. The procurement will be conducted through the government open competitive procedures specified under the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of the Republic Act No. 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, with some amendments as stated in these Bidding Documents. The estimated cost of the package is **Php 9,075,000.00.**
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the BAC-FAPs and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from **September 17 to October 19, 2007 – 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.**
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of **Php 2,000.00** (excluding courier fee outside of Metro Manila). The method of payment will be in cash. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. The DENR BAC-FAPs will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on **October 8, 2007 at 10:00 a.m. at FASPO Conference Room, FASPO Bldg., DENR Compound, Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City.**
7. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before **October 22, 2007, 2:00 p.m.** All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of Cash, Certified Check Cashier's Check, Bank Draft, Irrevocable Letter of Credit or Bank Guarantee as follows Late Bids shall not be accepted.

Lot No.	Lot Description	Cash, Certified Check, Cashier's Check, Bank Draft, Irrevocable Letter of Credit (1%)	Bank Guarantee (1.5%)
1	6 units Asian Utility Vehicles	PhP 60,000.00	PhP 90,000.00
2	41 units Motorcycles	PhP 30,750.00	PhP 46,125.00

8. **Bid opening shall be on October 22, 2007, 3:00 p.m.** Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.
9. The **DENR BAC-FAPs** reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.
10. The address referred to above is:

DENR BAC-FAPs Secretariat
FASPO Conference Room,
FASPO Bldg., DENR Compound, Visayas Ave., Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. No.: (0632) 927-6755 / 929-6626 to 29 local 2058
Fax No.: (0632) 927-6755

(Sgd.) **ATTY. ANALIZA REBUELTA-TEH**
Assistant Secretary and Chair,
Bids and Awards Committee for Foreign-Assisted Projects

(PDI – September 16, 2007)

Wanted Immediately

RCMagno
Group of Companies

JETT CHROME DAZZLER

MARKETING EXECUTIVES
With engineering background (Mechanical, Civil, Sanitary)
Must have keen interest in selling and dealing with people
Preferably with valid professional driver's license

PLANT ENGINEER
Graduate of Mechanical Engineering course
With at least 1 year experience in plant facility maintenance, sanitation and improvement

AUDIT STAFF
Graduate of BS Accountancy
Must be meticulous and keen to details
With extensive experience in general accounting

LABARATORY ANALYST
Graduate of Chemical Technician course or Chemistry undergraduate with background in Quantitative Chemistry
Must possess good laboratory skills

DRAFTSMAN
Preferably graduate of BS Architecture or its equivalent experience
With extensive knowledge in AutoCAD/Inventor
With at least 1 year experience in product designing

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For more information, please contact Personnel Section at **Tel. Nos. 921-4473/924-7973/924-3119**

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Notice is hereby given that Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT) Provisional Receipt Nos. **191926** to **191950** issued to Mr. Eduardo O. Decena were declared lost. Any transaction using these series will no longer be honored.

(PDI–September 16, 2007)

INVITATION TO BID

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(PDI–September 16, 2007)

For your Classified Ads requirements, call our Classifieds Advertising Hotlines:

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A STATEMENT OF SUPPORT FOR
KONINKLIJKE PHILIPS ELECTRONICS, N.V.

We, the owners of **BGS HARDWARE, DENNIS HARDWARE ENTERPRISES, INC., NATIONWIDE SALES CORPORATION,** and **ZAMBOANGA MULTI HARDWARE,** all having business addresses at Zamboanga City, join KONINKLIJKE PHILIPS ELECTRONICS, N.V. ("Philips"), the registered owner of the trademarks **PHILIPS**, **PHILIPS SHIELD EMBLEM** and **HAND LOGO**, in its drive to combat piracy and counterfeiting activities in the market. We are aware that the act of selling counterfeit products is an act of infringement in violation of Philips' trademark rights and detrimental to the welfare and interests of the consumers. The following are the trademarks owned by and registered in the name of Philips:

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We understand that under the Intellectual Property Code (Republic Act No. 8293), the acts of infringement or unfair competition are punishable by imprisonment ranging from 2 to 5 years and fine ranging from P50,000 to P200,000.

We commit to the public and to Philips that we will not sell, offer for sale, distribute, advertise or in any way deal with electronics, lighting and other products bearing any unauthorized reproduction, copy or colorable imitation of any of the trademarks owned by Philips. We encourage others to do the same.

We understand that KONINKLIJKE PHILIPS ELECTRONICS, N.V. will not hesitate to prosecute any person found manufacturing, importing, selling and/or distributing or offering to manufacture, sell and/or distribute products that falsely bear its trademarks or otherwise infringe its intellectual property rights. Further information relating to Philips' intellectual property rights may be obtained from its trademark counsel in the Philippines, namely:

FEDERIS & ASSOCIATES Law Offices
Suite 2005, 88 Corporate Center 141 Valero corner
Sedeño Streets, Salcedo Village, Makati City
Tel. Nos.: 889-6197/889-6198
Telecopier: 889-6132

Asian Development Bank-Japan Scholarship Program

Funded by the Government of Japan

Qualified citizens of developing member countries of the Asian Development Bank (ADB), who intend to pursue postgraduate studies in economics, management, science and technology, and other development-related fields are invited to apply for scholarships under the Asian Development Bank-Japan Scholarship Program. Upon successful completion of the graduate program, the scholars are expected to return to their countries and contribute to its socioeconomic development. Scholarships are awarded for graduate studies at designated institutions in courses of study approved by ADB. The Program especially welcomes qualified women applicants who have limited financial means to obtain university education.

The Scholarships

Level of Education: postgraduate (diploma, masters, and doctorate degrees)
Duration: from 1 to 2 years
Coverage: tuition fees, books, subsistence and housing allowance, insurance, economy airfare, and research subsidy

Academic Institutions

- Australia—National Centre for Development Studies/Australian National University, University of Melbourne, University of Sydney
- China, People's Republic of—University of Hong Kong
- India—Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi
- Japan—International University of Japan, Nagoya University (Graduate School of International Development), Keio University (International Graduate Programs on Advanced Science and Technology), National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies, Ritsumeikan University (Master in Economics), Saitama University (Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering), University of Tokyo (Department of Civil Engineering, School of International Health, Institute of Environmental Studies, and Department of Urban Engineering)
- New Zealand—University of Auckland
- Pakistan—Lahore University of Management Sciences
- Philippines—Asian Institute of Management, International Rice Research Institute/University of the Philippines in Los Baños
- Singapore—National University of Singapore
- Thailand—Asian Institute of Technology, Thammasat University
- USA—East-West Center

Eligibility Requirements

Prospective applicants must:

- be a citizen of an ADB developing member country
- have at least 2 years work experience
- have gained admission to an approved course in a designated institution
- be proficient in oral and written English communication skills to be able to pursue studies
- be in good health
- not more than 35 years old at the time of application.
  (Staff of ADB and the designated institutions and their close relatives are not eligible to apply.)

Application Requirements

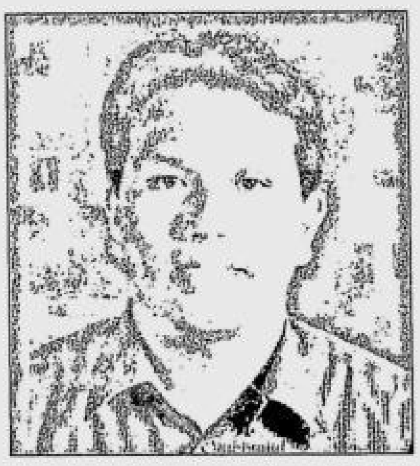
Applicants should obtain application forms from the designated institutions of their choice and submit the completed form and required documentation to the Institution. Applicants should indicate on the application form that they wish to be considered for an Asian Development Bank-Japan Scholarship. (ADB will select the scholars from among those admitted by the institutions. A separate application to ADB is not necessary.) For further information, visit the ADB-JSP website.

www.adb.org/jsp

JSP

ADB

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC



Warning is hereby made that **RAMA IAN L. VELASCO**, whose picture appears above, is no longer connected with Liquigaz Philippines Corporation. His employment was terminated for cause on September 7, 2007.

Any transaction entered into by the above for and on behalf of Liquigaz Philippines Corporation after said date will not be honored by the company.

(PDI–September 16, 2007)

City Government of Zamboanga
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
City Hall, Zamboanga City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The **CITY GOVERNMENT OF ZAMBOANGA** invites PhilGEPS registered suppliers to apply for the following items.

Name of Projects	Approved Budget for the Contract	Date/Time		Price of Bid Documents (non-refundable)
		Pre-Bid Conference	Deadline/ Opening of Bids	
1. Job-Order: Labor and Materials: Thermoplastic Markings	P2,999,898.00	September 21, 2007	October 03, 2007	P1,000.00
2. Electrical Supplies	P2,289,570.00	September 21, 2007	October 03, 2007	P900.00

The Bid documents shall be available at the City Mayor's Office, Procurement, Acquisition and Awards Division, City Hall, Zamboanga City starting **September 14-21, 2007** upon payment of non-refundable fee indicate above.

The Pre-Bid conference shall be held at **City Engineer's Office, Conference Hall, City Hall, Zamboanga City.**

The Bidder shall drop and enclose the original of the Technical Proposal in one sealed envelope; whereas, the original of the Financial Proposal shall be enclosed in another sealed envelope. Both envelopes shall then be placed in another single envelope. In the bid box located at the abovementioned address.

For more information, please call the Procurement, Acquisition and Awards Division at telephone no. **(062) 992-7763.**

The **CITY GOVERNMENT OF ZAMBOANGA** reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) **MARIO D. ARRIOLA (DVM)**
BAC Chairman

(PDI – Sept. 16, 2007)

'Double Treat' at Thunderbird Resorts-Rizal

THUNDERBIRD RESORTS-Rizal will give its patrons another round of back-to-back music and comic entertainment as the luxury resort holds "Sunday Double Treat" show, featuring Myles Hernandez and Sharm Santiago, two of the sexiest women in the entertainment industry today. The show that's bound to make waves is happening this Sunday, Sept. 16, 9PM at the Resort's Cabana Bar. Admission is free.

Sharm Santiago will make Sunday evening at Thunderbird Resorts-Rizal sizzle as she takes center stage at the resort's Cabana Bar. As the regular co-host of GMA 7's late night show "Walang Tulugan with the Master Showman" with German Moreno, Sharm just knows how to captivate audiences with her charisma. She's also seen in GMA 7's "Impostora" daily soap opera and was among the cast members of the Viva Entertainment movie, "Biyaheng Langit."

Myles Hernandez, will make the night sizzle even hotter, as she goes back-to-back with Sharm. As one of the original members of the Viva Hotbabes, Myles has mesmerized audiences with bold performances on camera and on stage, proving that she is more than just a sexy-pretty face in the industry. Myles was named FHM Philippines 2003 Girlfriend of the Year and has appeared in covers of various magazines such as HotStuff and Viva Hotbabes videos.

"Sunday Double Treat" is part of Thunderbird Resorts' commitment to bringing first-rate entertainment to its customers at its world-class facilities in Binangonan, Rizal. For details, call Thunderbird Resorts Rizal at +632-6513888 or email to reservations@thunderbird-asia.com.

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Notice Is Hereby Given that the Estate of the late ARCADIA R. IMPELIDO who died on May 18, 2005 was Extrajudicially Settled By & among Her surviving Heirs on Sept. 15, 2007 before Notary Public ATTY. GREGORIO T. VITERBO, JR. of Quezon City as per Doc. No. 299 Page No. 61 Book No. VII series of 2007.
(PDI-Sept. 16,23 & 30, 2007)

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•Teachers Vill #22 Mahiyain• 9210255/9967 / 09178865431

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>SALCEDO PARK TOWER
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1% w/out taking car 5315577

1.5% Easy Car Loan 3748765

1.5% easy carloan 7815352/55

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3732081/82

2% W/O TAKING CAR 7880183-84

2% w/o Taking Car 7225647/48

2% w/oTaking Car 8966630/33

2% w/oTaking Car 8959454

2% w/out taking car 7282780

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

MOVING OUT FURNITURE SALE TEL 7501116/7949

BILLIARDS

BLIARD TBLE 38T-UP 8014494

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

YAMAHA GRAND & UPRIGHT PIANOS: TERMS -T7213124

PETS

ALASKAN Malamute Pups 45T pure breed w/ PCCI paper 4545667; 09189235216

Chiwa² choco&white 15Tup Blk&white 10T 09178489913

ENG. BULLDOG 09278809173

GOLDEN RET PUP Ph Ch sire dam by Ph Ch 0917-8998689

•PUGS •CHIWAWA • 3725231

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MISCELLANEOUS

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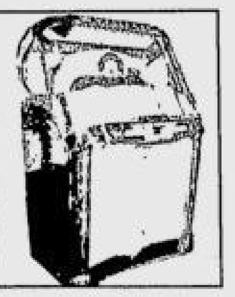
5330210;5329590;09209035520

AUCTION SALE

Marilao-Filipinas Pawnshop, M & R Bldg., Tabing-ilog Marilao, Bul. All Unredeemed Pledges of MAR 2007 will be Auctioned on SEPT 24 9:00am.Lanuza & Sons Auctioneer.
(PDI- Sept 16, 2007)

Meycauayan-Filipinas Pawnshop,Allw Complex, Calvario,Meyc.Bulacan. All Unredeemed Pledges of March.2007 will be Auctioned on Sept 24, 10:00am.Lanuza & Sons Autioneer.
(PDI- Sept 16, 2007)



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TEL: 5635025

ANNOUNCEMENT
Notice is hereby given to the public that the unused Official Receipt (OR) booklet with series numbers from 0351 to 0400 of KIRSCHNER TRAVEL MANILA, INC is missing/lost. Any and all transactions concerning the missing/lost OR booklet is UNAUTHORIZED and shall not be honored by the Company. The Company disclaims any liability concerning the unauthorized use of the missing/lost OR booklet.
(PDI–September 16, 2007)

J.K. YURI (Subic) International Inc.
Bldg. #8253 Upper Cubi Area, Subic Bay Freeport Zone
is in need of:
COOK (CNA)
Qualifications:
- Can cook all kinds of dishes
- Responsible and hardworking

Text or Call: 09192251418 *Look for Dolly*

LEGAL NOTICE

In the legal notice of the late TERESITA G. MAGALONA published in this paper on Jan. 26, Feb. 2 & 9, 2006, the Book No. should be 96, instead of 46.

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late SPS EDUARDO P. PEÑALOZA & CARMEN P. PEÑALOZA was extrajudicially settled By the heirs as Per Doc # 462 Page#94 Book# V Series of 2007 By Notary Public
Atty. RODERICK I. URREA
of San Pablo City
(PDI-Sept 16,23 &30'07)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late VICTORIA SALUD RONQUILLO was extrajudicially settled by and among her surviving heirs. Before Atty STEPHEN G. BONGOLAN Notary Public for and in the City of Mandaluyong under
Doc. No. 820;
Page No. 173;
Series of 2007
(PDI-Sept. 2,9,&16,2007)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late LUCILA G. ALMAZAN was extrajudicially settled and partion by and among her heirs as Per Doc. No. 36; Page No. 8; Book No. 5; Series of 2007 Before Notary Public of Fernando V. Balinado
PDI--Sept. 2, 9 & 16, 2007

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late CEASAR MASCARDO has been extra-judicially settled among his heirs as per Doc. No. 88, Page No. 19, Book No. XLVII, Series of 2007 before Atty. Gervacio B. Ortiz,Jr., Notary Public
(PDI-Sept. 2,9 &16,2007)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late GASPAR D. LOPEZ and PAULITA C. LOPEZ has been extrajudicially settled among their heirs before Notary Public SOFRONIO C. UNTALAN JR as per Doc No. 304,Page No.61, Book No.CLIV Series of 2007
(PDI-Sept. 2, 9, 16,2007)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given that the EEI Corp. Sales Invoice Nos. 10550, 10551, 10554, 10580, 10583, 10676, 10685, 10687, 10690, 10721, 10746 & 10747 issued to Marele Jardinel last 2002 were declared lost.
(PDI-Sept. 16, 23 & 30, 2007)

Notice is hereby given of the loss of Meralco Stock Certificate issued to ROSANA L. DUE under Certificate No. A0144199, A0224853 and A0391505 with total no. of 195 shares. If no contest received new stock certificate will be issued.
(PDI-Sept. 9, 16 & 23, 2007)

Notice is hereby given of the lost of San Miguel Corporation stock certificates issued to Edmund Yu Chua, Edmund Yu Chua ITF Edsel Anthony S Yu Chua, and Edmund Chua ITF Edric Andro S. Yu Chua under stock certificate nos. B01201009, B92023344, B89005616, B89002048, B88001804, B99181509, B93034398, B92023533, B89008199, B99181508, B93034397, B92023532, & B89008200 with total no. of 1,094 shares. Should no one contest received, new stock certificates will be issued.
(PDI Sept. 9, 16 & 23, 2007)

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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BSNS W/FREE EDUC 09273309578

EARN Php8-16,000 pesos/mo. In your Free Time. Join our Multi-Level Network Marketing Program. For more info Call 824-7121 • 635-5030 • 631-9443 • 0920-6456410

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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BUSINESS FOR SALE

Attractive Restaurant space Ready to Operate Call 4539043 / 09228895662 QC Area

DEALERSHIP

MAGNEGOSYO NA!
SAN MIGUEL PRODUCTS
w/ Ur 7K Earn 50T/mo. or More Grace 6425864/09179876309

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7269687•0917-8884040

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

ADMIN ASST / BOOKKEPPER Female 23-30 y/o college grad nr Cwealth QC 9313643

ARCHL APRNTICE 4 SITE ALABNG /PQUE AREA 09064956354

ARKI grad ACAD 433-3245 sjcontruction_hrd@yahoo.com

DEPED Makati Vacant Position 2007 OSEC-DECS B. TCHR1-42175

DEPED Makati Vacant Position 2007 OSEC-DECS B. TCHR1-42158

FEMALE Preferably Exp Video Photo Shop 0917-3777308

PHARMACIST
321 Dasmarinas St
(Unit 901) Binondo, Manila

Social Worker Wanted Temporary Job (1 Month) Age not important, Independent, Reward 20,000P Info: mitzette26@yahoo.com

WANTED FOREMAN W/ EXP. IN CONSTRUCTION COL KATHY 8138420 8186820 8133568

PART-TIME HR CONSULTANT E-MAIL YOUR RESUME TO: mindgate_consultancy@yahoo.com

PART-TIME HR CONSULTANT E-MAIL YOUR RESUME TO: mindgate_consultancy@yahoo.com

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Malen

MALE/FEMALE

ACCTNG. STAFF W/EXP. IN Q.C. 8752690/09273401979

EXEC. SECRETARY CUSTOMER RELATION OFFICER ASST. GEN.MANAGER 535-5754 or 533-3494 send Resume: cbm@cbm.com.ph

STORE SUPERVISOR (Herbs Plants Shop) -30 to 45 y/o with exp computer literate -good PR skills, good organizing skills Apply at 40 E. Rodriguez Sr Ave QC Call 7119636; 7120471 for details

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DIRECT BUYERS ONLY. PLS. CALL PEPITO SANCON OR ROBERT REYES AT 5345632

MMTS, a degree beyond innovation

A CURRENT PROVISION for the motorcycle industry: Several motorcycle service companies may have been introduced and were effectively established in the philippines, but it was only very recently that a concept, involving towing services, exclusively for motorcycles, was conceived, furthered, and made to materialize to be opened for membership.

Metro Motorcycle Towing Services , 24 hours, everyday. It also backs it's members up with an accident insurance as their asset of protection.

Formerly PMATC [Philippine Motorcycle Assistance and Towing Corporation], MMTS maintains it's precedent purpose and aims to progressively come up with more ways of providing it's members with improvements on these said services.

The worth of security: MMTS ensures your safety.

Beyond the specialized aid it offers, members receive the assurance of the preservation of each motorcycle's expected condition, from and to locations, through highly capable professionals, respectively designated to take your calls, safely handle and secure your bikes, and closely monitor the due system and mobility of the transport operations.

To every single aspect is a relative specific demand, and, MMTS has exceptionally designed it's vision to attend every and provide for your motorcycle assistance needs.

An extension to convenience: Metro Motorcycle Towing Services expands your options.

When your two wheeler causes you trouble, MMTS is equipped to give you a worry - free alternative to be excused from the hassle.

When faced with unanticipated motorcycle - related circumstances, the closest to precise way to deal is to rely on people who are well-trained and genuinely willing to manage the situation for you, at ANY GIVEN TIME. For an annual fee of only P 888.00 for motorcycles, 249cc and below, and P 988.00 for motorcycles, 250cc and above, MMTS becomes your method solution.

Your membership is simply a step away. Only dial the MMTS hotline and a personal visit by a company representative will be promptly scheduled to have your application processed.

For application and other inquiries, please call: [02] 287 - 5663 / [02] 287- 4827, or, located at Lot 19 -- 20, Block 47, C4 Road, Longos, Malabon City .

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897-8425 (Telefax)
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Makati
892-5578; 811-4361;
811-4370
Kalaw
528-0213; 527-3342
Megamall
635-0219; 635-0220

Nielsen holds lecture at DLSPS

DR. CHRISTINE NIELSEN, 2007-2008 Fulbright-SyCip Distinguished Lecturer, will speak at the De La Salle Professional Schools (DLSPS) Ramon V. Del Rosario Sr Graduate School of Business on Sep. 17 at the RCBC Plaza Tower 2 in Makati at 6:30 p.m. Her topic is 'Changing Paradigms of International Competitiveness,' where she will discuss how traditional rules of international competitiveness are fast changing in an era of globalization. Holder of a doctorate in business administration from the George Washington University, Nielsen will describe and explain the implications of such deeply altered economic landscape on business strategies and government policies. Nielsen, who is director of global business studies and professor of international business at the Merrick School of Business at the University of Baltimore, was featured in the Baltimore Business Journal's April 2000 issue as one of the 'Who's Who' in higher education and as one of the area's top 25 most influential business educators for International business education. Admission is free and open to the public.

Zamboanga City Electric Cooperative, Inc.
(ZAMCELCO)
Zamboanga City

INVITATION TO BID

The Zamboanga City Electric Cooperative, Inc (ZAMCELCO) at Putik, this city per requisite under Board Policies on Pre-Qualifications, and Bids and Awards invites ALL interested Bidders/Suppliers to bid for the supply of the following electrical materials/equipment/items to wit:

No.	Quantity	Unit	Item Description
1	5	UNITS	DISTRIBUTION TRANSFORM[illegible]25KVA, AGENCY PRICE: P80,850.00
2	5	UNITS	DISTRIBUTION TRANSFORME[illegible]0KVA, AGENCY PRICE: P115,500.00
3	2	UNITS	DISTRIBUTION TRANSFORMER [illegible]5KVA, AGENCY PRICE: P156,450.00 BRAND: PHILEC (BRAND NEW) DOUBLE BUSHING 13.2/7.62KV 240V/480V
4		UNIT	DISTRIBUTION TRANSFORMER, 25KVA, AGENCY PRICE: P73,500.00 BRAND: PHILEC (BRAND NEW) DOUBLE BUSHING 7.62KV/120-240

You may secure the Pre-qualification Requirements from the office of the Finance Department, ZAMCELCO Complex in Putik, this city anytime during office hours and submit the same upon completion of all requirements thereof.

Submission of the Pre-qualification Requirements shall not be later than 5:00 p.m. of September 18, 2007 and no documents appertaining thereto shall be accepted thereafter, UPON PAYMENT OF A NON-REFUNDABLE FEE OF FIVE THOUSAND PESOS ONLY (P5,000.00).

All applicants will be duly notified as to the results of the pre-qualification eligibility process. Only those who are pre-qualified will be allowed to participate in the bidding. A post-qualification may be conducted accordingly hereafter.

Bidding will be conducted on September 25, 2007.

Sealed bid in duplicate copies should be submitted to the Committee on Bids and Awards at the Office of the Finance Department at the above-mentioned address on or before 2:00 p.m. of September 25, 2007. Five percent (5%) Bidder's Bond is required as a matter of policy.

The right to reject any or all bids, to waive any formality therein, or to accept such bid as may be considered advantageous to the coop is hereby reserved as an absolute prerogative of ZAMCELCO.

(Sgd.) REINERIO R. RAMOS
General Manager

(PDI - Sept. 15 & 16, 2007)

WEST VISAYAS STATE UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER
Jaro, Iloilo City, Philippines
Tel. No. 3202431
Fax No. (033) 3202623
Email address: univhosp@iloilo.net

"PHIC Accredited Health Care Provider"

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The WEST VISAYAS STATE UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER invites bidders to apply for eligibility and to Re-Bid for the following items.

Item/Description	Approved Budget for the Contract	Date/Time				
		Price of Bid Documents (non-refundable)	Date/Issuance of Bid Documents	Pre-Bid Conference	Deadline/ Opening of Bids	End-User
1. One Job - Supplying Security Services of Twenty Two (22) Security Guards Contract Duration: One (1) year	P2,612,736.00	P3,000.00	Sept. 17, 2007 to Sept. 23, 2007 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM	Sept. 24, 2007 2:00 PM	Oct. 5, 2007 9:00 AM	HRMO

The Bid documents shall be available at West Visayas State University Medical Center BAC Secretariat.

The Pre-Bid conference shall be held at Procurement Unit Conference Room-Second Floor Dormitory Building, West Visayas State University Medical Center, E. Lopez St., Jaro, Iloilo City.

The value of the prospective bidder's largest single contract completed within the last three (3) years and similar to the contract to be bid must be at least fifty percent (50%) of the approved budget for the contract to be bid.

The bidders shall submit one (1) original & three (3) copies of their duly accomplished eligibility requirements, technical and financial proposals in three (3) separate sealed envelopes. These envelopes shall then be enclosed in one single envelope & addressed to WVSU-Medical Center, E. Lopez St., Jaro, Iloilo City.

For more information, please call the BAC Secretariat, West Visayas State University Medical Center Procurement Unit at telephone number (033) 320 2431 to 38 local 223 & 153.

West Visayas State University Medical Center reserves the right to waive any formality in the responses to the eligibility requirements and to this invitation. West Visayas State University Medical Center further reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, or declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

Approved by:

(Sgd.) PATRICIA P. TUPAS, D.D.M
Chairman, BAC

(PDI - Sept. 16, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
BIDS & AWARDS COMMITTEE
Capitol Hills, Tandag, Surigao del Sur
Telefax No. (086) - 2113700

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

Second Women's Health and Safe Motherhood Project (2WHSMP)
Loan No. 7290-PH

Re-bidding for the Construction of Annex Building of Adela Serra Ty Memorial Medical Center- Phase II

The Government of the Philippines (GOP) has applied for a Loan from the World Bank toward the cost of Second Women's Health and Safe Motherhood Project (2WHSMP) and intends to apply part of the proceeds of this loan, together with the GOP counterpart funds, to payments under the contract for the Construction of Annex Building of Adela Serra Ty Memorial Medical Center - Phase II.

The Adela Serra Ty Memorial Medical Center Hospital Bids and Awards Committee (HBAC) now invites sealed Bids from Eligible Bidders for the above-mentioned project. Completion of work is required by 365 calendar days.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act No. 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as The Government Procurement Reform Act. Subject to exceptions stated in this Bidding Documents, only Bids from Bidders who pass an eligibility check will be opened. The Bidders with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine its responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during post-qualification. The estimated project cost is ***Thirty Three Million Two Hundred Thousand Pesos Only (Php33,200,000.00).***

4. The documents required in the Eligibility Documents shall be submitted as part of the Technical Documents of the Bidders as provided in the Instructions to Bidders.

5. Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from Adela Serra Ty Memorial Medical Center – Hospital Bids and Awards Committee (HBAC) and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from ***8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.*** on ***September 24 - October 2, 2007.***

6. A complete set of Bidding Documents in English may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of Ten Thousand Pesos only (***Php10,000.00***). The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the bidder or his authorized representative on ***September 24 - October 2, 2007.***

Hospital Bids and Awards Committee
Attention: Secretariat
Adela Serra Ty Memorial Medical Center
Tandag, Surigao del Sur
Tel. No. 086-211-4306
Fax No. 086-211-3700

7. The *Adela Serra Ty Memorial Medical Center HBAC* will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all Eligible Bidders at ***10:00 a.m., October 3, 2007*** at the following address ***Adela Serra Ty Memorial Medical Center Conference Room, Tandag, Surigao del Sur.***

8. Eligible Bidders must submit their Bids at the address below on or before ***10:00 a.m., October 17, 2007.*** All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in either of the herein prescribed forms and minimal amounts in percentages based on the estimated project cost or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

Form of Bid Security	Minimum Amount in % of the Estimated Project Cost
Cash, certified check, cashier's check, manager's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit	Php332,000.00
Foreign Government Guarantee	Php33,200,000.00

Bid opening shall be at ***10:01 a.m., October 17, 2007 at the Adela Serra Ty Memorial Medical Center Conference Room, Tandag, Surigao del Sur.*** Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend.

9. Completion of the Works is required by ***365 Calendar Days.***

10. The Adela Serra Ty Memorial Medical Center HBAC reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) ANTONITA L. OROZCO, M.D.
HBAC Chairman

(PDI - September 16, 2007)

29th Year of Family Rosary Crusade

THE STA. CATALINA COLLEGE COMMUNITY IN LEGARDA, MANILA WILL celebrate its 29th Family Rosary Crusade with a 9-day novena from Sep. 28 to Oct. 6 at the SCC Chapel. The theme for this year is "The Rosary and Its Message of Social Transformation." Preparations are being made by this year's FRC chair couple Mr and Ms Francisco Mariazeta, in coordination with the SCC administrators, faculty, students, parents and the SCC Family Advisory Council Inc (SCC-FAO) officers. To ensure the success of the celebration, the steering committee has been organized: honorary chair, Mother Teresa Examen OP, prioress general; president, Sr Ana Celestial OP; chair couple Mr and Ms Francisco Mariazeta; vice chair couple, Mr and Ms Joey Alvero. Chairs for the different committees are: Liturgy and music, Sr Alma Daraug OP; ways and means, Mr and Ms Francisco Mariazeta; program and invitation, Edessa Brito; decorations/arrangements, Linalan Vega; reception/accommodation, Sr Felicidad Lipio OP; publicity/neighborhood participation, Regina Alvero; procession/traffic/safety, Col. Florendo Quibuyen; refreshments, Sr Josefina Pacheco OP; restoration, Mercy Abanes. Consultants are Sr Ma. Concepta Roque OP, prioress and Col and Ms Florendo Quibuyen (FRC 2006-2007 chair couple). Those interested to sponsor Holy Masses can call Mely (734-6817) or Anne (734-6861).

Print management seminars at the Print Phils '07

SURVIVE AND PROSPER IN THE PRINT BUSINESS IN THESE CHALLENGING times! The Philippine Printing Technical Foundation (PPTF), the Printing Industries Association of the Philippines (PIAP) and the Ingrin Philippines Cooperation and Consultancy for the Graphic Media Industry (IPCC) offer simple yet effective, practical and affordable management seminars that produce fresh ideas and new ways of dealing with issues that directly impact the survival and profitability of printing companies at the Print Philippines '07. These will be held at the Philippine Trade and Training Center (PTTC), Roxas Boulevard corner Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue, Pasay City from Sept. 19 to 21. The topics cover a wide range of disciplines critical to success, namely: (Sept. 19) Humanistic Management Improving Workplace Relations for Better Performance - 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., speaker: professor Ben Teehankee, De La Salle University. (Sept. 20) Automated Management Information System for Efficient Cost Estimation and Workflow - 9 a.m. to 12 noon, speaker: Auke van der Meulen of Prodist Netherlands; The Secret to Successful Succession of Family-owned Printing Business, speaker: professor Ricardo Mercado, Ateneo de Manila University; Reviewing Print Marketing Strategies - 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., speaker: professor Ben Paul Gutierrez, University of the Philippines. (Sept. 21) The Printer's Guide to Taxation Compliance - 9 a.m. to 12 noon, speaker: Melicor, Briones and Villareal CPAs; Simplify Your Workflows: The Common Sense Approach to Managing Your Print Production, speaker: professor Rosemary Seva, De La Salle University. All seminars will be conducted at the Philippine Trade Training Center (PTTC). To register, call the Print Philippines '07 Secretariat at 713-0902 and 713-2671.

2nd Metropolitan Live Endotherapy Workshop

METROPOLITAN MEDICAL CENTER WILL AGAIN HOST A THERAPEUTIC endoscopy workshop on Sept. 29, from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m., 7th floor Metropolitan College of Nursing Building. This is a collaborative activity between the endoscopy teams of the Metropolitan Medical Center and Rajavithi Hospital of Bangkok Thailand, headed by Dr. Thawee Ratanachu-ek. The workshop will feature some of the standard as well as advanced endoscopic procedures for the treatment of gastrointestinal tract disorders. The activity is a good opportunity for the local team to work and interact with one of the recognized training centers in the region. A panel of respected gastroenterologists will be on hand to support the live demo with their inputs and experiences. Target audience will be gastroenterologists, endoscopy nurses and assistants and interested practitioners and students. For details, please contact the Metro Endoscopy unit at tel. no. 254-8313.

Ducks opens in SM-CenterPoint

THESE DAYS, EVEN THE QUICKEST VISIT TO A CLOTHING STORE CAN be a mind-numbing experience. Everywhere you turn, a new store earnestly addresses the needs of its often highly demographic- from Birkenstock-wearing yoga fanatics and compulsive shoppers to tech-crazed nerds and cherry-faced poster boys. The market grows and grows with no end in sight. At new Ducks Unlimited Shop in SM-Sta. Mesa, the interior is more bright and cool. Its marketing strategy is simpler and some would say old fashioned, but the owners follow their instincts. "Our main concern is to develop a strong point of view and a compelling consistency in our designs and quality materials. Ducks wearer makes a man manly" said Ayo Gunting - PR-consultant of Ducks Unlimited. Check Ducks Unlimited exciting traditional stylish shirts at SM-Marilao–Bulacan, SM-CenterPoint, SM-San Lazaro, SM-Pampanga, Festival Supermall, Shoppesville-Greenhills, Ali-Mall Cubao, Landmark-Makati, Landmark-Trinoma, Crossing's Dep't. Store, Century Park Sheraton–Hotel, all Robinson's malls, and Glorietta 3.

e-tickets now available to all KLM destinations

KLM ROYAL DUTCH AIRLINES NOW OFFERS THE CONVENIENCE OF e-tickets to passengers traveling to any of the 124 destinations served by KLM. In addition, KLM e-tickets can be used when flying with 72 interline partners. Because e-ticket data are automatically recorded in KLM's computer systems upon reservation, customers with an e-ticket only have to present their identity document when checking in for a flight. KLM is leading the international airline industry in the replacement of paper tickets with e-tickets. At present, e-tickets account for around 89 percent of all KLM tickets. KLM intends to raise this to 100 percent as of January 1, 2008, when it will begin issuing e-tickets only. Paper tickets will still be available on request, but KLM will impose a surcharge on issuance.

UAAP, NCAA novelty items now online

LOOKING FOR THE RIGHT SHIRT TO WEAR IN THE UAAP OR NCAA games, finding the jacket with your Alma Mater logo to wear at the office or simply searching for a teddy bear with your school jersey has never been better with Universidad. Universidad recently collaborated with Mozcom's PayEasy to make shopping for collegiate souvenir items easier. Now on its fifteenth year, Universidad introduces its e-commerce capabilities in their website. At www.universidad.com.ph, one can shop for shirts, jackets, jerseys, bags, stickers, ID holders, caps, stuffed toys, flip-flops and other novelty items bearing school names and logos like La Salle, Ateneo, UST, Assumption, Mapua, Letran, San Beda and many more. Payment through major credit cards and PayEasy wallet is now available in their online portal. Items once confirmed available are delivered 2-3 days for local orders and around one week for international purchases. Visit www.universidad.com.ph to save on time and effort. For more information on Mozcom PayEasy, visit http://www.mozcom.com or http://www.payeasy.ph. You may also call at +63(2) 848-2606 or e-mail sales@mozcom.com .

Petron, Michelin promo

PETRON, THE COUNTRY'S LEADING OIL FIRM, HAS PARTNERED WITH prestigious tire brand Michelin to offer Filipino consumers more value for their motoring needs. From Aug. 1 to Oct. 31, Michelin tire buyers will receive up to P1,000-worth of free Petron fuel gift certificates when they purchase Michelin tires at participating dealers nationwide. A single-receipt purchase of Michelin passenger car or light truck tires of the same pattern and size entitles the buyer to free Petron fuel gift certificates which can be redeemed at select Petron service stations nationwide. A set of four tires size 15-inches and above will be issued P1,000-worth of Petron vouchers; a set of four tires size 13-14 inches gets P500-worth of vouchers; a set Of two tires 15-inches and over also gets P500-worth of free fuel.

Protexin for digestive wellness

CONSTIPATION IS A DIGESTIVE DISORDER. A CONDITION NORMALLY characterized by infrequent bowel movement and/or pain and difficulty in passing stools. This digestive abnormality can hurt the child's rectum and sometimes blood in the child's stool can frighten the child and mother as well. Constipation can be avoided by giving your child a regular high fiber diet (fruits, vegetables and grain products) before any laxative is used. Any form of child's exercise or physical activity can help a lot. A regular intake of 8-10 glasses of water a day is a plus factor. Under normal conditions, however, the use of laxative can cause electrolyte imbalances which can be hazardous. According to pediatricians, multi strain human origin probiotics are vital against constipation. Presently, a multi-strain probiotics from England for babies, young children and adults are now in the market. Protexin Restore for babies, Protexin Vitality for children over 4 years and Protexin Balance for adults. They provide 7 lactobacili and bifido strains for digestive wellness. They are the only microencapsulated probiotics for better efficacy against constipation and other digestive disorders such as lactose intolerance, gassiness or dyspepsia. For more information on Protexin products for digestive wellness call tele/fax (02)807-9288, (02) 413-3707 or see your Mercury drug outlets or visit www.prebiotech.com.

Bits Clips

'Double treat' show at Thunderbird Resorts

THUNDERBIRD RESORTS-RIZAL WILL GIVE ITS PATRONS ANOTHER round of back-to-back music and comic entertainment as the luxury resort holds "Sunday Double Treat" show, featuring Myles Hernandez and Sharm Santiago, two of the sexiest women in the entertainment industry today. The show that's bound to make waves is happening this Sunday, Sept. 16, 9 p.m. at the Resort's Cabana Bar. Admission is free. The two stars are all geared up to rev a high-energy night of sexy music and laughter for Thunderbird Resorts-Rizal guests, promising to bring the crowd to their feet and tickle their funny bones when they go all out with spontaneous wisecracks, improvised numbers, and musical performances at the resort's entertainment venue. "Sunday Double Treat" is part of Thunderbird Resorts' commitment to bringing first-rate entertainment to its customers at its world-class facilities in Binangonan, Rizal. For details, call Thunderbird Resorts Rizal at +632-6513888 or e-mail to reservations@thunderbird-asia.com.

Fashion Institute holds 2007 Graduation Show

FASHION INSTITUTE OF THE PHILIPPINES' NEW BREED OF DESIGNERS will compete to redefine "fashion" in their commencement show titled "This is Fashion," on Sept. 18, 6:30 p.m. at the Trinoma Mall Activity Center. Twenty-five participating graduates will showcase their collection of avant-garde, casual, corporate and formal garments in hopes of bagging one of six awards at stake for the night: Best in Fashion Illustration, Best Casual Wear Designer, Best Corporate Wear Designer, Best Formal Wear Designer, Best Avant-Garde Designer. The recognition include the most coveted Designer of the Year award which will send the winner to a two-week fashion tour of Paris, France to visit ateliers and fashion houses and personally witness garment construction of top international brands. The country's top fashion icons such as, fashion designers Christian Espiritu, Rene Salud, Frederick Peralta of the Fashion Design Council of the Philippines and Francis Calaquian of the Fashion Designers Association of the Philippines; Joey Samson of Young Designer Guild alumni; fashion director Cata Figueroa and Preview Magazine's Editor-in-chief, Pauline Suaco-Juan will be judging the graduates' work. The graduation show will be under fashion director Raymund Villanueva and hosted by Karen Agustin.

Celebrate the Sea Festival

CELEBRATE THE SEA HAS BEEN AN EVENT THAT HAS BEEN ONGOING FOR the last 5 years in other Asian countries. This year, its 6th year, it is being held in Manila, Philippines on Sept. 21 to 23, at the Coconut Palace in Manila. This is all part of the thrust of the Department of Tourism (DOT) to promote scuba diving in an effort to bring recognition to the world that, the Philippines, has one of the, if not, the most biodiverse underwater ecosystem. The Department Of Tourism has in fact committed to have the next 3 Celebrate the Sea Festival (2007, 2008, 2009) here in the Philippines. The event will kick-off on Sept. 21 with a Meet and Greet at the Coconut Palace for the participants in the late afternoon followed by a small welcome party on the Presidential Yacht, Ang Pangulo. The event is composed of the following: International Imagery Competition (film, photos, books, etc); Wow Shoot Out Competition (shoot out will be in Anilao, Dumaguete, Puerto Galera); Children's On-the-Spot Painting Competition with "Say No To Shark Finning" as the theme (children ages 7 to 15); film, showings, seminars and workshops booth displays of the sponsors. On Sept 22, the Children's On-the-Spot Painting Competition will be held at the Coconut Palace where around 40 to 50 kids are expected to join (from HKG, Indonesia, India, Philippines). Later in the evening at the Sofitel Philippine Plaza in their tent, will be the awarding party for the Festival wherein the different winners of allthe different competition categories will be announced. This award party will be graced by President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo who will give a special Presidential Award. Sept. 23 will be the last day of the exhibits, film showings and seminars. Visit www.celebratethesea.oneocean.com.

PBM goes nationwide on free operations

THE PHILIPPINE BAND OF MERCY (PBM) CELEBRATES THE FIRST YEAR of its Cleft Surgical Mission Program going full operation by extending it to various provinces, providing free surgery for children suffering from cleft lip and palate. PBM, through the active participation of its Cleft Palate Teams (CPT), which are composed of volunteer doctors and PBM Fellows coming from renowned hospitals in the country, has since fulfilled its commitment to reach out and improve the lives of underprivileged Filipinos having craniofacial deformities. The Cleft Surgical Mission Program includes on-site screenings, supply of all pre- and post- operative medicines and all surgical supplies including the anesthetic agents, and surgeries performed by its team of plastic surgeons, anesthesiologists, and medical support staff. There are still 12 remaining missions scheduled for this year in areas of Quezon, Marinduque, Occidental Mindoro, Cagayan, Ilocos Sur, Mt. Province, and Misamis Occidental. About 200 prospective patients are waiting to be benefited by the program. For mission schedules and other inquiries, log on to www.philbandofmercy.org or call 928-8539, 928-8566. You may also visit PBM's office in # 22 East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City.

Immunologist attracts over a thousand guests

MORE THAN A THOUSAND GUESTS FROM ALL OVER THE COUNTRY filled up the ballroom of Sofitel Philippine Plaza last Aug. 5 to listen to Dr. Jau-Fei Chen, a multi-awarded immunologist and the founder of E. Excel International who came to Manila to conduct a Nutritional Immunology Conference. The excitement at Dr. Chen's arrival generated is understandable. She is, after all, the individual who made the breakthrough discovery on the life-changing science of Nutritional Immunology. Nutritional Immunology tells us that when the immune system is weak, it will become an easy target for all types of bacteria and viruses, whereas a strong immune system can effectively ward off any illness. It is therefore crucial to prepare our immune system and keep it healthy and strong with a consistent supply of wholesome, natural plant foods rich in phytochemicals, polysaccharides and antioxidants. To know more about Nutritional Immunology, please visit the following E. Excel offices: Makati Branch - 23rd Floor Rufino Pacific Tower, Ayala Avenue, Makati City every Monday and Friday, 2 to 4 p.m.; Quezon City Branch - 2nd Floor Westlife Place, 107 West Avenue, Quezon City every Wednesday, 6 to 8 p.m. You may also call 811-0837 or visit www.excelphils.com.ph for more information.

Maybank teams-up with PSID

MAYBANK PHILIPPINES, A MEMBER OF THE MAYBANK GROUP, Malaysia's largest banking group, is raising the bar in terms of branch premises design and merchandising development. Recently, it has teamed up with one of the country's top interior design schools - the Philippine School of Interior Design (PSID) - for the very first Maybank Branch Makeover Design Competition. This competition aims to tap into the creative minds of top PSID graduating students for fresher, more stylish and highly space-efficient interior designs fit for the banking and financial services setting. Ultimately, the Branch Makeover Design Competition's objective is to delight the Maybank customer by enriching his retail banking experience through design and space innovations. Participating students are required to submit a template layout for a typical Maybank Branch, together with perspective drawings and material swatches for easy visualization of the overall concept. Entries will be judged by select senior Maybank executives based on Creativity, Value, Space Efficiency and Functionality, with the winning proponent awarded a cash prize and given the privilege to supervise actual Branch renovation in accordance with the chosen design. The Maybank Branch Makeover Design Competition officially commenced last Sept. 1.

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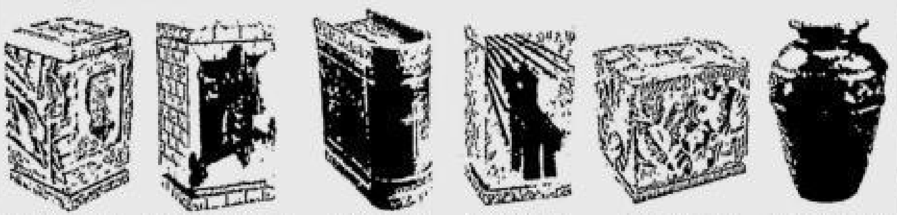

CREMATION URNS

"Be at rest once more, O my soul, for the Lord has been good to me."
(Psalm 116:7)

"Inday, can you hear me?
I love you... open your eyes."

Our Dearly Beloved Mama

Annie Kinney Aligaen

(July 26, 1932 – Sept. 14, 2007)

Peacefully joined our Creator at the age of 75.

Her loving husband **(Ret.) Col. Isaac Aligaen (PAF)**; children, **Dan** and **Arleen**, **Lewis** and **Maritess**, **Isaac Jr.** and **Margarita**, **Chito** and **Girlie**, **Angelito** and **Cynthia**, **Anthony** and **Evan**, **Noreen**, **Robert** and **Kim**; and grandchildren, friends, and relatives request the pious readers to pray for her eternal happiness in heaven.

Her body lies in state at the Tanguile Chapel, La Funeraria Paz, Sucat, Parañaque City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, Sept. 18, 2007 at Manila Memorial Park, Sucat after the 9:00 a.m. mass/service.

Notify family and friends of a loved one who had just passed away.
We accept death notices, announcing details of the person's wake and interment. For a very affordable fee you can reach out to everyone who have been a part of the life of your dearly departed. For more information, you may contact Inquirer Classifieds at (02)897 8425.

Expression of Gratitude

The family of the late

MA. ELSIE MUÑOZ YELO-ENRIQUEZ

of Bacolod City
who passed away on September 3, 2007

wishes to acknowledge with heartfelt gratitude all relatives and friends who comforted them with their gracious company, sent spiritual offerings and flowers, attended Masses and the funeral rites, and in many immeasurable ways joined them during their deepest hours of bereavement.

"Give thanks to the Lord, because He is good; His Love is eternal." Psalm 107:1

IN LOVING MEMORY OF THE LATE

PABLO "LITO" GLEAN SUPREMO DRAGON

who passed away last September 16, 2006
at Fort Bonifacio, Global City, Taguig.

We, the bereaved family, would like to request the public to pray for the eternal repose of his soul and that **JUSTICE PREVAIL** upon his death.

Masses intended for his death anniversary will be celebrated on all the churches of Makati City from morning to evening.

CLASSIFIEDS

Municipality of Motiong, Samar
Construction of Flat Slab Bridges

Bidding Documents
Invitation for Bids

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Date: September 16, 2007
ADB Loan No.: 1772-PHI
Contract No.: SP-08-015-02

1. The Republic of the Philippines has received a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) towards the cost of the INFRASTRUCTURE FOR RURAL PRODUCTIVITY ENHANCEMENT SECTOR (InfRES) PROJECT and it is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the Contract for the **Construction of 31.0m Bonga and 45.0m Nagbak Flat Slab Bridges.** Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries of the Asian Development Bank that:
   (a) are registered with the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board to undertake Infrastructure projects as a Medium A contractor or better, and
   (b) have undertaken within the past 5 years, as the contractor, management contractor or subcontractor, three (3) bridge construction work projects valued at least Pesos 5,500,000 each.
2. The Municipality of Motiong, Samar invites sealed bids from bidders with the above qualifications for the construction and completion of the Works, which includes two (2) Flat Slab Bridges (31.0 meters Bonga Flat Slab Bridge and 45.0 meters Nagbak Flat Slab Bridge) totaling 76.0 meters. The maximum contract period for the works is 180 calendar days.
3. Bidders may obtain further information from, and inspect and acquire the bidding documents, at the office of the Employer, at

ACILA G. BACO
Office of the BAC Chairman
Municipality of Motiong, Province of Samar

4. A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested eligible bidders on submission of a written application to the above office, and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Four Thousand Pesos (Php 4,000.00). Issuance of bid documents will be on September 23, 2007 to October 22, 2007.
5. All Bids must be accompanied by a Security of equivalent to two (2) percent of the Bid Amount or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency, and must be delivered to the address indicated above on or before 2:00 P.M. on November 6, 2007. Bids will be opened at 2:00 P.M. on the aforementioned date, in the presence of bidders' representatives who choose to attend. A pre-bid conference will be on October 25, 2007 at 2:00 P.M., Session Hall, Municipal Building, Motiong, Samar.
6. The LGU reserves the right to accept or reject any bids and to cancel the bidding process at any time prior to award of the contractor, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligations to inform the affected bidders of the reasons for Employer's action.

(Sgd.) ACILA G. BACO
BAC Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – Sept. 16, 2007)

CENTRAL PANGASINAN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
San Carlos City, Pangasinan
Tel. #532-2222 / 532-3146

INVITATION TO BID

The **Central Pangasinan Electric Cooperative, Inc.** (CENPELCO) with office address at Padilla St., San Carlos City, Pangasinan thru Board Resolution No. 31 series of 2007, invites interested parties to bid on the disposal of scrap vehicles and office/electrical materials and equipment, to wit:

EQUIPMENT/MATERIAL DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY
A. Distribution Transformer (Assorted brands and KVA ratings)	401 units
B. Potential Transformer	4 units
C. Recloser	7 units
D. Current Transformer (Busted)	20 units
E. Assorted Junked KWH Meters	19,200 pcs.
F. Scrap Materials & others	
1. Assorted Steel Scrap & Others	1 lot
2. Junked Vehicles	10 units
3. Defective Aircon Unit	1 unit
4. Assorted Auto Batteries	12 pcs.
5. Assorted Auto Tires	280 pcs.
G. Transformer Oil	12 drums
H. Switch Gear	2 units

All interested parties shall submit Letter of Intent and secure bid documents re: Detailed list of materials to PBAC secretariat starting September 18, 2007. In addition, a non-refundable fee of Seven Hundred Fifty Pesos (P750.00) shall be paid before securing said documents. Joint inspection of materials is scheduled on September 19, 2007 at 2:00 PM and submission of sealed bid will be on **September 28, 2007 (Friday) at 2:00 PM (1400 hrs)** at CENPELCO main office, Padilla St., San Carlos City, Pangasinan wherein your bid will be opened in your presence or that of your representative.

Terms will be on "AS-IS-WHERE-IS" basis. Please submit BID BOND in cash or cashier's/manager's check equivalent to ten percent (10%) of the total bid price. Bid bond less than the required amount will be automatically disqualified. Bids/proposals submitted beyond the specified date and time will not be accepted. The minimum selling price is **Three Million Nine Hundred Forty Eight Thousand Seven Hundred Fifteen Pesos (PHP 3,948,715.00).**

CENPELCO RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, WAIVE ANY OF THE REQUIRED FORMALITY THEREIN AND ACCEPTS THE BIDS ONLY DEEMED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE COOPERATIVE.

(Sgd.) RODRIGO F. CORPUZ
PBAC Chairman

Noted by:

(Sgd.) ENGR. EDGARDO R. PIAMONTE
Executive Officer/Project Supervisor

(PDI–Sept. 11 & 16, 2007)

SOUTH COTABATO II ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
(SOCOTECO II)

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The South Cotabato II Electric Cooperative, Inc. (SOCOTECO II) is inviting all interested bidders to Pre-qualify and to Bid for the following:

1. **10 MVA SUBSTATION TRANSFORMER PACKAGE - 1 SET**
Including its accessories such as instrument transformers for 69 kV revenue metering & relaying and 13.2 kV monitoring, manual disconnect switches for 69 & 13.2 kV, circuit breakers for primary and 4 feeders protection, comprehensive protection relays (universal protocol), primary and secondary lightning arresters, batteries and charger for DC supply and steel structure for 69 kV Gantry and 13.2 kV Bus.
2. **DISTRIBUTION TRANSFORMER**
SPECIFICATIONS:
120/240 V CONVENTIONAL TYPE, ADDITIVE POLARITY WITH EXTERNAL HANDLE FOR HIGH VOLTAGE TAP CHANGER

		NO LOAD LOSSES (W)	FULL LOAD LOSSES (W)
25 UNITS	15 KVA DOUBLE BUSHING, BRAND NEW	35	145
35 UNITS	25 KVA DOUBLE BUSHING, BRAND NEW	58	210
20 UNITS	37.5 KVA DOUBLE BUSHING, BRAND NEW	80	200
25 UNITS	50 KVA DOUBLE BUSHING, BRAND NEW	95	375
10 UNITS	75 KVA DOUBLE BUSHING, BRAND NEW	138	580

3. **CURRENT TRANSFORMER OUTDOOR TYPE (RESIN/HARD RUBBER)**
SPECIFICATIONS:
24 UNITS - 100 5A, BRAND NEW, MADE IN USA OR EUROPE
24 UNITS - 150 5A, BRAND NEW, MADE IN USA OR EUROPE
24 UNITS - 300 5A, BRAND NEW, MADE IN USA OR EUROPE
24 UNITS - 400 5A, BRAND NEW, MADE IN USA OR EUROPE
4. **POTENTIAL TRANSFORMER OUTDOOR TYPE - 18 UNITS**
RESIN/HARD RUBBER
RATIO 8400V/120 MODEL: VEF-24-03
5. **CURRENT TRANSFORMER OUTDOOR TYPE (RESIN/HARD RUBBER)**
SPECIFICATIONS:
12 UNITS - RATIO 50-40-25/5A, TYPE GIFK-24-105
12 UNITS - RATIO 100-75-50/5A, TYPE GIFK-24-105
12 UNITS - RATIO 300-250-150/5A, TYPE GIFK-24-105
6. **CUT-OUT FUSE - 400 SETS**
SPECIFICATIONS:
15KV, 100AMPERES, WITH LIGHTING ARRESTER
BRAND NEW, GENUINE
7. **GE KV2C METER - 20 PCS**
SPECIFICATIONS:
FM 16S, KT21 6, 50/60Hz, TA 30, CL 200, 120-480V, TV120, 3PHASE
WITH K & T SWITCH AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT
8. **SOCKET BASE 7 JAWS - 20 PCS**
9. **GE KV2C METER - 20 PCS**
SPECIFICATIONS:
CL 20, 120-480V, 4 WIRES, FM05, KT 1.8, 50/60 Hz, CA 0.2, TA 2.5, KH 1.8, TV120, 3 PHASE,
WITH K & T SWITCH AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT
10. **SOCKET BASE 13 JAWS - 20 PCS**

To be qualified Bidder must have fully complied with the following:
Accreditation Requirements
- A. Company Profile
- B. Business Registration
- C. BIR/VAT Certificate of Registration
- D. Business Permit
- E. Latest Income Tax Return (ITR)
- F. List of Clients for a period of three (3) years

SUBMISSION TO THE ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE
Bid and Award Chairperson - VIRGILIO B. OCTAVIO

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF REQUIREMENTS - SEPTEMBER 30, 2007

(Sgd.) VIRGILIO B. OCTAVIO
BAC CHAIRPERSON

Noted by:

(Sgd.) ENGR. RODOLFO G. OCAT
General Manager

SOUTH COTABATO ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE II
JOSE CATOLICO SR. AVE., LAGAO, GEN. SANTOS CITY
TEL. NO. 552-4313, 552-4271; FAX NO. 552-4858;
E-MAIL: power@socoteco2.com

(PDI - Sept. 15 & 16, 2007)

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b. 1 unit Townhouse Metrohomes, F. Benitez St. San Juan	70sq.m.
c. 1 unit Condo Southland, Las Piñas	90sq.m.
d. 1 unit Condo Teklite Towers	109 sq.m.
e. 5 units Apt. bldg., A.H. Lacson University Belt, M.M.	240 sq.m.
f. Vacant lot, standford, Cubao	294 sq.m.
g. Vacant lot, Litex Road, Doña Nicasia Quezon City	600 sq.m.
h. Vancant lot, Don Faustino St., Don Antonio Hts. Quezon City	1000 sq.m
i. Vacant lot, Assumption Subd. Antipolo	532 sq.m.
2. PROVINCIAL	
a. Orchard lot, beside Avida Antipolo de Norte Lipa City	3 Ha.
b. Commercial lot, Bonifacio St. Baguio City	900 sq.m.
c. Residential lot, beside Epsa, Loakan Proper, Baguio	1000 sq.m.
d. Rsidential lot, beside Epsa, Liwanag, Loakan, Baguio	20 sq.m.
e. Residential lot, over looking Ping St. Quezon Hill Baguio	350 sq.m.
f. Orchard lot, Malibay San Miguel, Bulacan	15 Ha.
g. Assorted properties in Pagbilao/Tayabas, Quezon	1,2,3,5 Has.
h. Assorted properties in Labo, Camarines Norte	100 sq.m. up to 3Ha
i. Commercial lot, La Salle Ave. Bacolod	600 sq.m.
j. Residential lot, Golden River, Taculing, Bacolod	250 sq.m.
k. Commerical lot, Highway, Bago City, Negros Occ.	900 sq.m.
l. Bayside lot, Valladolid, Negros Occ.	300 - 1000 sq.m
m. Commercial lot, Highway, Talisay City, Negros Occ.	2000 sq.m.

Text: Victor cell# 09178110222,
email: vrlm 777@yahoo.com

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

LIEZEL DUPAY VITALIS & ELLEN GRACE VILLA CASANDRA

This is to inform the public that **LIEZEL DUPAY VITALIS & ELLEN GRACE VILLA CASANDRA**, whose pictures appear above are no longer connected with **CANYON WOODS RESIDENTIAL RESORT**, including its all affiliates project effective September 19, 2007 and September 2, 2007 respectively.

Please be informed that our company will not honor any transaction made by them on our behalf after the said dates.

(PDI – September 16, 2007)

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RAMCAR
GROUP OF COMPANIES

PRODUCTION ENGINEERS
- ☑ Male; 20-30 years old
- ☑ Graduate of **Mechanical, Electrical or Electronics and Communications** Engineering
- ☑ License is an advantage but not required
- ☑ Preferably with work experience in a Manufacturing set-up.
- ☑ Computer proficient, knowledge in Machine operations
- ☑ Must be willing to work in Sta. Maria, Bulacan

PROCESS ENGINEERS
- ☑ Male, 21-25 years old
- ☑ **Chemical or Metallurgical Engineering Graduate**
- ☑ With very good scholastic records
- ☑ Must exhibit effective communication and interpersonal skills.
- ☑ Must be willing to work in Sta. Maria, Bulacan

CHEMICAL ENGINEERS
- ☑ Male/Female, 21-25 years old
- ☑ **Chemical Engineering Graduate/ BS Chemistry Gráduate**
- ☑ With very good scholastic records
- ☑ Must exhibit effective communication and interpersonal skills.
- ☑ Must exhibit interest in research and development
- ☑ Must be willing to work in Sta. Maria, Bulacan

SOURCING AGENTS
- ☑ **College graduate; preferably Engineering**
- ☑ With exposure in procurement, inventory, materials planning and other operation's management principles.
- ☑ Experience in Materials Management is an advantage
- ☑ Preferably with SAP background
- ☑ Must be willing to work in Sta. Maria, Bulacan

ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS
- ☑ Male; 23-35 years old
- ☑ **A licensed Electrical Engineer**
- ☑ With know-how on electronics
- ☑ Must be knowledgeable in power and control circuit designs
- ☑ With minimum of 2 years experience in plant electrical maintenance
- ☑ Computer literate
- ☑ Must be willing to work in Sta. Maria, Bulacan

JR. STRUCTURAL DESIGNER
- ☑ Male, 24-35 years old
- ☑ **BS Civil Engineering graduate; licensed**
- ☑ Must be well-verse in ***AUTOCAD***
- ☑ Knowledgeable in **structural design** such as building, plants, tanks design and calculation.
- ☑ Must be willing to work in Sta. Maria, Bulacan

PRODUCTION FOREMEN
- ☑ Male, 21-32 years old
- ☑ **Engineering graduate (preferably Chemical/Mechanical/ Metallurgical & Electrical)**
- ☑ License is an advantage
- ☑ With exposure in a manufacturing set-up
- ☑ Exhibits strong leadership skills and good command in English communication
- ☑ Must be willing to work in Marilao, Bulacan

SHIFT SUPERVISORS
- ☑ Male, 25-30 years old
- ☑ **Environmental or Metallurgical Engineering graduate; preferably with license**
- ☑ With 2 years experience on a manufacturing firm in a Supervisory capacity and has exposures on various environmental processes
- ☑ Highly analytical and must possess strong leadership skills
- ☑ Must be willing to work in Marilao, Bulacan

SALES ENGINEERS
- ☑ Male or Female; 25-35 years old
- ☑ **Graduate of Electrical or Mechanical Engineering**
- ☑ With preference to applicants with **Sales** exposure
- ☑ Possess excellent communication skills
- ☑ Knows how to drive (with license)
- ☑ Must be willing to do fieldworks

DEALER RELATIONS MANAGERS
- ☑ Male; 23-35 years old
- ☑ **Graduate of any 4-year Business course**
- ☑ With at least 2 years experience in SALES preferably from Top Corporations
- ☑ Experience from an automotive industry is an advantage
- ☑ Must possess effective people skills and strong sales interest

ACCOUNTANTS/AUDITORS
- ☑ Should be either
  - **A CPA, no experience required or**
  - **A non-CPA, with experience in SAP**
- ☑ Very good in performing reconciliation work and Audit tasks
- ☑ With good scholastic records
- ☑ Proficient in Microsoft Excel
- ☑ Possess good English communication skills

JOINT VENTURE CONTROLLERS
- ☑ Female; 25-30 years old
- ☑ **B.S. Accountancy graduate**
- ☑ Proficient in MS Excel/PowerPoint; preferably with at least 1 year experience
- ☑ Articulate and well-versed in presentation of Financial reports
- ☑ Must be willing to do fieldwork

CSR SPECIALISTS
- ☑ Male of Female; 25-35 years of age
- ☑ **Graduate of AB/BS Social Work & Community Development, Psychology or Public Administration (Masters Degree would be an advantage)**
- ☑ MUST have general knowledge in CSR, public/community relations including media affairs and target stakeholders' consultation.
- ☑ Possess excellent project management skills
- ☑ With good oral and written communication skills

PROJECT MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST
- ☑ Male/Female; 21-28 years old
- ☑ **Engineering graduate**
- ☑ With at least 1 year experience or position in a service or manufacturing set up
- ☑ Knowledgeable in project management systems
- ☑ Knowledgeable in computer systems: SAP Project Systems, MS Office and MS Project Software

ASSISTANT MOLD MAKERS
- ☑ Male; 22- 35 years old
- ☑ **Technical course graduate**
- ☑ With **3-5** years experience as an Assistant Mold Maker
- ☑ Must be willing to work in Sta. Maria, Bulacan

MACHINISTS
- ☑ Male, 25-30 years old
- ☑ **Technical course graduate**
- ☑ With at least 2 years experience in machine shop operations
- ☑ Must have knowledge in the use of various measuring instruments.
- ☑ Can interpret engineering drawings
- ☑ Must be willing to work in Sta. Maria, Bulacan

MACHINE ASSEMBLERS/WELDERS
- ☑ Male; 25-35 years old
- ☑ **Graduate of technical course**
- ☑ 2-5 years of experience in the machine shop
- ☑ Background in TIG welding or refrigeration is an advantage
- ☑ Knows how to interpret mechanical drawings
- ☑ Must be willing to work in Sta. Maria, Bulacan

ELECTRICAL TECHNICIAN
- ☑ Male; 20-35 years old
- ☑ **Graduate of Electrical Technology or any Technical course**
- ☑ Knowledgeable in electrical wiring and devices
- ☑ Must be willing to work in Sta. Maria, Bulacan

Applicants are requested to apply personally with resumé, 2x2 picture and copy of Transcript of Records to:

RAMCAR CENTER
(Battery Group)
80 Roces Avenue, Diliman, Q.C.
or send e-mail to: recruitment@motolite.com

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DepED

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The DepED-Bids and Awards Committee I (BAC I) invites eligible bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the items indicated below:

Package	Items/Descriptions	Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	Specifications
1	Designing, Printing and Processing of Certificates of Rating for the National Career Assessment Examination (NCAE) (Rebid)	Php5,400,000.00	Book paper, 115 gsm Back to back printing with UV Security Logo and DepED-NETRC Sihoutte background 1.5 million copies
2	Printing of Rating with UV ink security logo, DepED silhouette background and serialized number with bar codes	Php156,000.00	a. For qualifiers, with provision for 1x1 picture 10,000 copies b. For non-qualifiers 50,000 copies
Issuance of Bidding Documents (upon payment in cash of non-refundable fee Php1,000.00)		September 17, 2007	BAC Secretariat, Procurement Service Room 508, 5th Floor, Mabini Bldg., DepED Complex, Meralco Ave., Pasig City
Pre-bid conference		September 21, 2007 2:00 p.m.	Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal Bldg., DepED Complex, Meralco Ave., Pasig City
Submission and Opening of Bids		October 3, 2007/2:00p.m.	

Bids received that exceed the ABC per package shall be rejected. A bidder may bid for one and all packages.

Bidders may submit bids before October 3, 2007 during office hours to the BAC Chairperson I through the BAC Secretariat, Procurement Service at the address indicated above. *Late bids shall be rejected.

Bidding shall be conducted in accordance with the procedures under R.A. 9184, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and its Implementing Rules and Regulations. Information is also available at http://www.deped.gov.ph or www.procurementservice.org or call DepED-PS at telephone no. 636-6543 or fax no. 636-6542/633-9343

DepED-BAC reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, to annul the bidding process, or declare failure of bidding at any time prior to contract award without thereby incurring any liability to the affected parties.

(Sgd.) TEODOSIO C. SANGIL, JR.
Undersecretary and BAC Chairperson

(PDI - Sept. 16, 2007)

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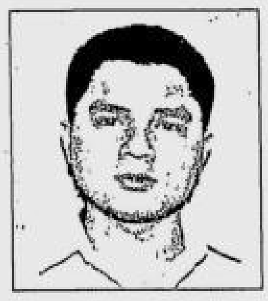
NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC



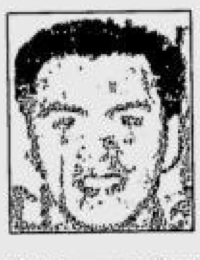
Be it known that warrant of arrest for **TEDDY K. PALACAY** of **OUTLIVE MEDICAL CORPORATION**, Peak Hotel, Subic Metropolitan Authority, Subic, Zambales whose picture appears above has been issued by the National Trial Court, National Capital Judicial Region Branch 84, Quezon City in criminal case # 06-142097.

Please direct any information leading to the whereabouts of the subject to:

Manacop Law Office
Mission Garden Condominium
59 Scout Ybardolaza St., Quezon City
Tel. No.: 929-6269

(PDI - September 16, 2007)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC



Philippines First Insurance Company, Inc. (PFIC) hereby informs the public that **MR. SHARON JON JON G. LIM** is no longer connected to our company.

We take no responsibility for any of the products or services offered by Mr. Sharon Jon Jon G. Lim. Any agreements and transactions offered by Mr. Sharon Jon Jon G. Lim will no longer be honored by our company effective immediately.

(PDI- September 16, 2007)

Inquire about the JobMarket package at 897-8808 loc 514.

Sunday LIFESTYLE Exclusives

Editorial Director **Cheche V. Moral**

Guest Editor **Jon-jon Rufino**

Jon-jon Rufino is a fallen vegetarian trying to reconcile his day job with his love of nature. He hopes that this section inspires people to treat themselves and their surroundings better, and that people inspire him to do the same.

Volunteer FOR THE ENVIRONMENT!

By Jon-jon Rufino

NO SANE PERSON VIEWS himself as actively anti-environment.

In our own ways, we are all concerned about the quality of our air and water and, perhaps to a lesser extent, the safety of our food. We all notice our ballooning electric bill. We feel the mercury rising. And we noted how devastating the typhoons last year were.

Some of us are concerned about our dwindling forests, some feel an affinity to animals that are endangered, and some have marked the obituary posted by the scientific community on the Chinese river dolphin, the latest species to go extinct by our hand.

Many of these problems, such as climate change, traffic, and industrial mining and agricultural pollution, seem too big for us to tackle. And the truth is that, while we can make a difference in our own little sphere as individuals, in our homes or in our schools or work places, we really need the cooperation and perhaps the leadership of others to make a serious dent in the current situation.

That's where joining, volunteering for or even just supporting an environmental organization comes in. We have quite a number in the Philippines.

Some of them are connected with multinational groups that warn of global threats and seek similar solutions in several countries at the same time. Others are homegrown and focus on protecting, preserving or rehabilitating one plot of land—a coral reef, a forest, or a watershed, while others focus on one particular issue.

More than money

Contributing money is great, but contributing some of our time and expertise is even better.

And there is an even more pressing reason to link up with an environmental organization around us. As individuals, our passions wax and wane. We need the inspiration of those who have much more experience, as well as of the young but driven who might need direction, but who we need to draw energy from.

Trying to fix the environment on your own is like trying to quit an addictive drug without any help. You have a chance of succeeding, but you can do so much more by involving those around you, or those with expertise.

And the friendships you make in these organizations will not only help you live your principles in your home or your workplace when you're not planting trees, or campaigning in Congress or on the streets, or leading tours in an eco-park, but might turn out to be your most fulfilling relationships.

It's one thing when you make friends based on where you went to school, or where you work, or where you live; it's a different level of friendship when you make friends based on what you believe in and what you're willing to fight for.

VOLUNTEER/2

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Nourish the soul, stimulate the senses.
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Volunteer...

From page 1

Below is a list of some of the organizations that do green work around our country. All of them are eager to hear from you.

Some of them you can join for photo contests, or tree-planting activities, or beach cleanups. Others need your help with their longer-term projects.

Some of them will take you as you are, and give you the training you need to join them on the field. Others need your expertise in seeking grants or they need your creative energies with their advertising campaigns, your people management skills, your writing talent. They need help with their websites. They can use researchers in the outdoors or on the Internet.

Whether you want to give up an afternoon or commit a few hours a week or a few weeks a year, your energy is welcome.

Mobilizing volunteers

In this issue, we have Jed Santos of EcoRescue writing about his experience organizing volunteers for Bantay Kalikasan's La Mesa Dam Eco-Park, where much of Metro Manila's water comes from. Jed set up EcoRescue with his dive buddies Boy Siojo and Oye Peralta so that divers can help enhance the coral reefs they love so much. He has since directed his knowledge into training volunteers, who used to assist marine park rangers, to assist forest rangers as well.

And while we emphasize the importance of participating in an organization as a catalyst for change, we must remember that what we do as individuals is also essential.

We cannot go about participating in beach cleanup campaigns and then not do anything about the garbage accumulating in the street drain outside our house, about the black smoke from our badly maintained car, about all the paper we waste in our office.

The structures where we live and work make as much impact on the world around us as our lifestyle. Traditional low-cost housing in the countryside are the best examples of using local materials, allowing in as much natural light, and letting the wind and the natural shade of trees to keep things cool.

Congregation in our cities and urban sprawl have challenged the efficacy of these time-tested energy saving principles, but Dan Lichauco of Archion Architects and University of Santo Tomas shows us how some buildings in the city have adapted through environment-friendly architecture that goes beyond tossing in a few solar panels and compact fluorescent lights.

Patty Labrador writes about Greenpeace's campaign against genetically modified organisms in our food. She is extremely concerned that we are eating artificial organisms that may affect us in unknown ways.

Natural foods have been tested by our bodies for millennia. It is only in our lifetime that we may find out what happens when we consume plants with genetic sequences never thought up by nature.

It is ridiculously intimidating to approach alone the challenge of maintaining a healthy, wholesome and helpful lifestyle, of protecting our nature reserves, of cleaning up some of the damage that we and those before us have done.

Contact one of these organizations, or a similar one you know about around you, so that you can multiply the effect you have on your environment and inspire yourself to be a better person.

DIRECTORY

Mother Earth, Philippines

Odette Alcantara is the leading proponent of reducing and then segregating garbage at home, and then turning wet waste into fertilizer and organizing pickup of our dry waste by the proper recycling agencies. She is always organizing workshops for individuals, barangays and companies who wish to practice zero waste. In addition, for the centenary of the birth of President Ramon Magsaysay, she is organizing tree-planting events around the country for 1,000 Ramons to plant 100 trees each. Whether you are named Ramon or not, she is waiting for your call at 6471181. She can also help you organize your tree-planting-themed birthday event with your friends, or help you source the seedlings that are appropriate for your target area.

Eco Waste Coalition

ecowastecoalition@yahoo.com
+632-9290376

Ray Panaligan is the coordinator for this umbrella organization that includes various cooperatives around the nation that also aims for zero waste. They provide the tools and contact information for the various junk shops who pick up or accept delivery of recyclables. They also campaign against incinerators, against the JPEPA, a pending agreement that would allow Japan to dump its hazardous waste in our country under the guise of recycling, and against additional dumpsites or landfills.

Center for Environmental Awareness and Education

www.ceae.org
communications@ceae.org

Jukka Holopainen leads this organization that focuses on keeping educators informed of environmental issues. They seek teachers and volunteers who might also be willing to help them with their other projects, which include interactions with indigenous groups, and running the Moonrise Film Festival, which features in Araneta Center every August the best independent films with ecological or cultural themes.

Greenpeace

www.greenpeace.org/seasia/en
act@greenpeace.org
+632-4347034 local 102

Mico Aliño mans the phones and email for those who want to help the local office of the most familiar environmental organization on the planet. Through their website, you can find out about their recommendations for clean living called Simple Lang, their upcoming photo competition on water, their youth group called SolarGeneration or any of their various campaigns encouraging renewable energy or against GMOs, nuclear energy and fossil fuels, and the pollution of our food and water sources. They welcome the curious, and they are proud of the fact that many people who have signed up only to wear a costume of a tainted tomato or a coal fire plant eventually take up full-time jobs with them.

WWF

www.wwf.org.ph
apply@wwf.org.ph

World Wildlife Fund has traditionally concentrated on issues regarding the preservation of nature's living treasures, but must inevitably endeavor to campaign for better environmental laws. They help manage the eco-tourism that centers around Donsol's whale sharks, the coral fishes at Apo Reef, the dolphins and whales at Tañon Strait, and *dugongs* of Palawan. They request that volunteers send them their resumés, so that they might identify any special skills or interests, but they are happy to take anyone with an open mind.

Bantay Kalikasan

darryn_castillo@abs-cbn.com
+6324109670 / +632-4152227

While the main thrust of ABS-CBN Foundation's environmental arm is the management of the La Mesa Dam, it runs the gamut of projects from tree planting at schools to used battery and oil collection through Bantay Baterya and Bantay Langis. As it grows through volunteers, it plans to promote other nature preserves throughout the country, including Verde Island Passage in Batangas, Donsol in Sorsogon, Pamilakan in Bohol, Puerto Princesa City Underground River in Palawan, and the Tubbataha National Marine Park in Cagayancillo, also in Palawan.

Peacepond

www.peacepond.org
peacepond_04@yahoo.com
+6334-7428500

Looking for some serenity in Negros Occidental? Contact Peacepond and inquire about their local environmental programs. Or just enjoy the fresh produce from their garden and fish farm, and purchase a bag or other item made from recycled materials from their shop .

Fruitopia

+632-6310369

Lita Salvador and her friends are encouraging people to follow their common sense and plant every seed from their kitchen. Call her for special tips, or to collect seedlings from her growing nursery.

EcoRescue

www.ecorescue.net
ecorescue@yahoogroups.com
volunteer@ecorescue.org

Jed Santos and his diver buddies have turned their dive organization into a volunteering powerhouse that looks for solutions to problems as they find them.

Green but MEAN

Genetically modified organisms may wreak havoc on nature and health

By Patty Labrador
Contributor

> *It may seem as though food and its future are completely out of your hands. That isn't so... If we are what we eat, we need to do everything we can to protect our precious food resources.*
>
> —Joy of Cooking

WHAT WE EAT PLAYS A HUGE part in affecting the world around us. We are becoming aware of the benefits to ourselves and our planet of a plant-based diet over one filled with animals raised in pens, treated with antibiotics, and fed their own waste or body parts. We are becoming aware of the dangers of the overuse of pesticides, and the advantages of buying produce that are locally grown. However one issue that has not gotten enough attention here is the way that multinational food conglomerates have been slipping GMO food into the Philippines and the world in general.

Genetically modified organisms, or GMOs, are living things that have the genetic material of one organism, like a fish, inserted into the DNA of a completely different living species, like a tomato. The result is an entirely new living organism, like a tomato with fish genes, that could not have existed through natural evolution. On the surface the technology seems too good to be true, given all the possibilities one can do with plants and animals. Imagine creating vegetables guaranteed to stay fresh longer or crops which are immune to pests. So it shouldn't be such a bad thing, right?

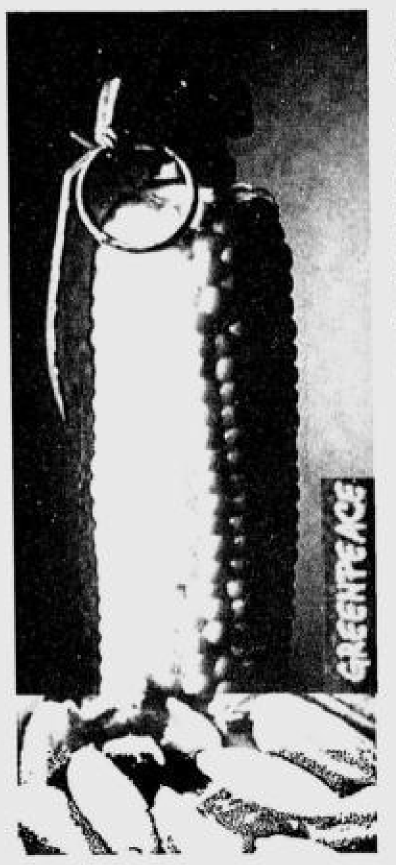
Daniel Ocampo, head of the Greenpeace campaign in the Philippines that promotes a GMO-free environment, says, "At the center of the GMO debate is the all-important question of safety. Most GMOs are either food crops or fruits or vegetables, meant to be cultivated in vast amounts and eventually eaten by human beings. Are these altered organisms totally safe to eat?"

Pesticide overload

A typical modification is making the plant resistant to a certain pesticide, so that fields of this crop can be loaded with higher doses than the vegetable could originally handle without dying itself. So produce from these fields will have higher levels of this pesticide, all the while remaining bright and shiny in our grocery shelf. Unfortunately for us, we who then consume these fruits and vegetables have not been genetically modified to resist the pesticide ourselves. And the health of the ecosystem is also threatened. As more and more farmers shift to this pesticide-resistant crop variety that is easier to grow, fewer farmers will be using natural varieties which may be resistant to some unexpected disease or shift in soil or climate conditions that the artificial crop was not designed to deal with.

Loss of biodiversity has been wreaking havoc on agriculture since the Industrial Revolution. Europe knows this from the collapse of its wine industry in the 1800s. In the New World, there was the US Southern Corn Leaf Blight of 1970. In Ireland, the Great Potato Famine of 1846 to 1849 caused the death of about a million people or 12 percent of the Irish population at the time.

As if the safety issue isn't bad enough, green groups are additionally leery of how corporate control of agriculture has apparently reared its ugliest head in the development and marketing of these altered organisms. GMOs will definitely alter the future of agriculture and will affect the livelihood of farmers, but not exactly for the benefit of all, Ocampo says.



Intellectual property

GMO technology and crops are considered intellectual property. Farmers are prohibited from saving seeds and replanting them. Otherwise, they can be sued for copyright infringement by the GMO manufacturer.

"Most GMO companies are giant industrial agricultural firms that manufacture chemical pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers. In most cases, the GMO crops they create are designed to work exclusively with a specific chemical that they market, locking the farmer into using only their products. It's an unscrupulous strategy of corporate greed. But what's more horrible about it is that the consequences are enormous: if these crops outcross and pass on that trait to other non-GMO varieties, then the resulting 'accidental' breed of altered plants will also need the proprietary chemicals to survive," Ocampo explains.

Among the most disturbing strategies corporations have thought up so far for GMOs is the so-called terminator technology. Terminator crops are plants which have been genetically altered so that their seeds will be infertile. The technology prevents farmers from keeping seeds of the particular crop. Farmers then have no choice but to buy seeds each season. And there is a danger that terminator plants cross over to conventional species in nearby fields and pass on the insidious technology.

Fortunately, terminator plants were prevented from being commercialized due to public protest. But the concept highlights how GMOs are also an important ethical issue. Given this technology to alter living organisms, how far can we actually go and who gets to set the limits?

Uphill battle

As in other countries, the advocacy against GMOs and toward more sustainable agriculture in the Philippines has been an uphill battle, Ocampo says. The planned commercial introduction of GMOs in the Philippines in 2002 was met with massive protests from green groups. But corporate pressure from agro-chemical companies, which already have a massive foothold on Philippine agriculture, proved stronger. The first GMO in the country, Bt corn, maize injected with genes from a bacteria so that the plant will produce its own insecticide, was approved in December 2002. In the months that followed, the Department of Agriculture approved GMOs at a rate of one GMO every 1½ months, rejecting none of the 44 GMO applications it has so far received.

"An appalling lack of transparency shrouds GMO applications in the Philippines," says Ocampo. "No GMO has gone through genuine public consultation. For example, the government right now is in the process of approving the commercialization of the first GMO rice in the Philippines. But how much has the government revealed to the public about this application? If the public had not protested against it, we might have woken up some months before to find out that GMO rice had already been approved."

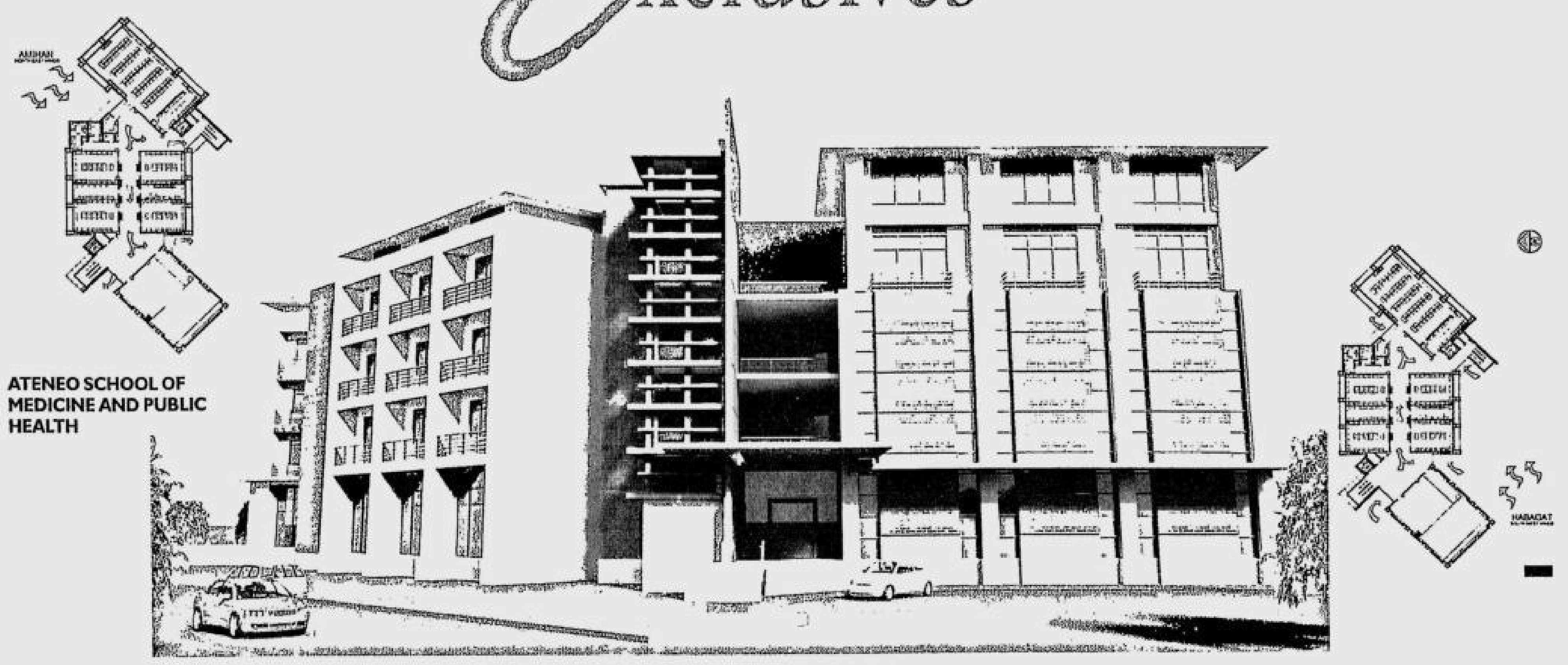
Injunction

Greenpeace has been doing its utmost to block the approval for GMO rice, including helping file a petition for injunction at a Quezon City Trial Court. Hearings for the petition are ongoing and Greenpeace considers it a step forward in creating public awareness on the issue, and putting pressure on the Department of Agriculture to review its GMO policies.

"We want the government to take concrete steps to protect, above all, consumer health, environmental well-being, as well as farmer interests. GMOs have neve been proven safe for human consumption and pose grave risks to the environment as they can contaminate GMO-free crops and ecosystems. We believe the government should instead focus its resources in developing and promoting sustainable agriculture, which gives better yields without harming the environment and which puts the farmers' interests, rather than those of greedy multinational agricultural firms, at heart," he says.

"These days GMO companies are cooking up ways to make genetically altered food seem more acceptable. They claim GMOs are the answer to world hunger, or they invent GMOs that are genetically enhanced with vitamins, like 'golden rice,' or say GMOs are the answer to food security. GMOs are not solutions but, on the contrary, distractions," says Ocampo. "The ability of a community to feed itself consistently on a diverse diet is a complex problem that will not be solved overnight: it depends on people having access to land and money. GMOs provide neither, and are not the cure-all to food and economic problems." In fact, environmentalists insist, GMO technology, and the industrial system it maintains, increases dependence on expensive farm chemicals and on companies that supply both the seed and the chemical technology.

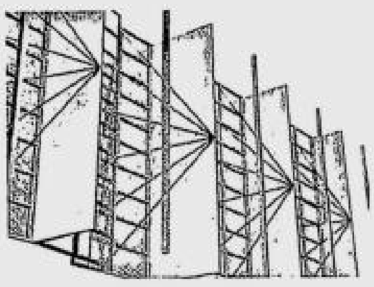
Contact Greenpeace Philippines, if you want to help stop the spread of GMOs in the Philippines, or if you simply wish to know more about the issue.



ATENEO SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AND PUBLIC HEALTH

Baby steps toward GREEN ARCHITECTURE

Innovative young architect and UST architecture teacher Dan Lichauco designs three structures that harness the wind, let the light in, and make efficient use of energy



By Dan Lichauco
Contributor

SUSTAINABLE STRUCTURES, green architecture and environmentally friendly buildings are current catch phrases that seem to encompass the whole range of building types that have the "green" tag to it.

The tag has multiple definitions and may include structures that use recycled materials like used bottles and tires as walls of the house, to bucolic-type structures that only use sustainable materials like *cogon*, bamboo and *nipa* for building.

Other structures are defined by the amount of foliage that is artificially put into the building in the guise of sky gardens or those that are responsive to the changing climate.

These definitions create a confusion of sorts on the actual meaning of "Green Architecture." Strictly speaking, a "Green Structure" is one that uses building materials from sustainable sources that were manufactured using renewable power; it is responsive to the climate and uses the least amount of energy for its operation. Hence, the ideal structure, a cave.

Given that we have evolved from this, the question of "green" becomes a compromise of sorts wherein the reality of the building, its materials, construction methodologies, functional needs and design come into play, taking into consideration cost, availability of materials and time.

It would be great if all structures designed henceforth in the Philippines are 100-percent green in its fullest definition.

Unfortunately this ideal is, in reality, quite remote at the moment and its success is dependent on a sustained effort by society to seek out the rather utopian vision.

Proto-green structure

The realities of the situation indicate that green architecture in the Philippines must take "baby steps," especially in the urban setting where green seems to take the back seat. These steps, however minute, will contribute to the whole and, hopefully will become commonplace as technology, methodology and price catch up with popular demand. When this does occur, the "greening" of Philippine architecture will, in the fullest sense of the word, be uppermost in the thought process of all architects and developers.

There are, however, already examples of green architecture. One of them was constructed in the '80s—the San Miguel Building by the Mañosa Brothers.

The brainchild of Francisco "Bobby" Mañosa, the building has angled ledges that are oriented to accept solar panels, allowing the structure to be energy self-sufficient. Unfortunately, given the efficiency and cost of solar cells, the batteries and transformers power from the Meralco grid is still cheaper.

Good news

The San Miguel had been planned for the future, the building waiting for solar power technology to catch up.

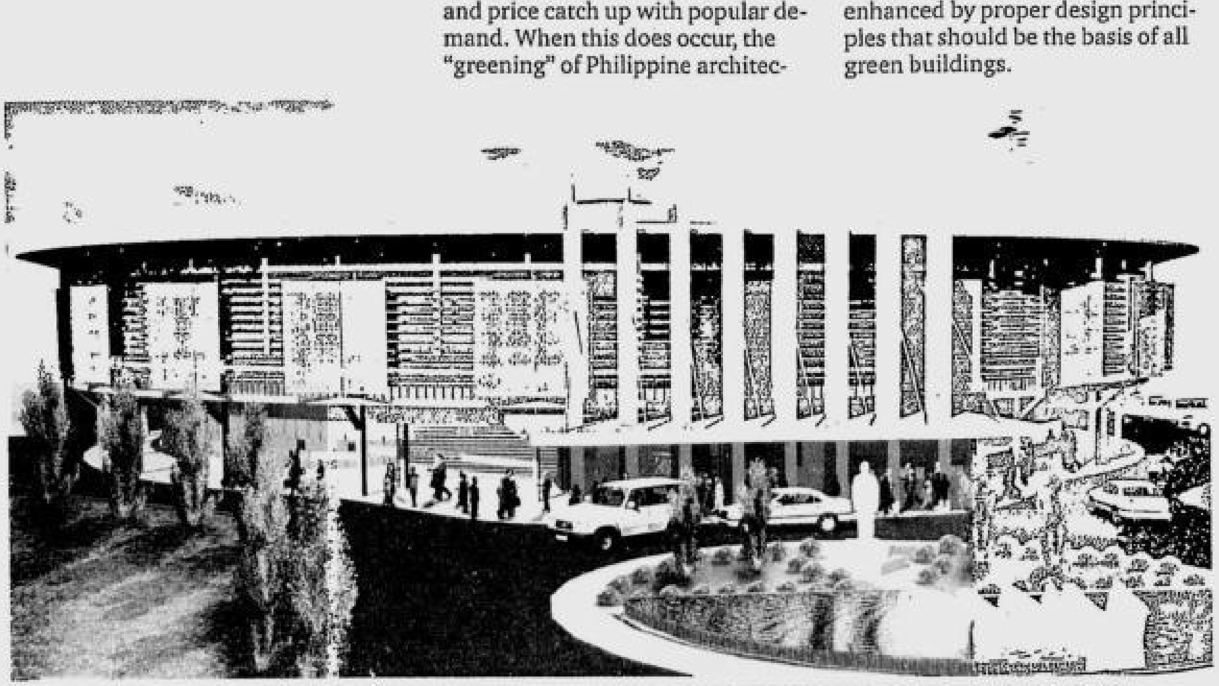
The good news is that cheap solar power is just around the corner. What is important to understand is that the brilliance of the San Miguel is not in its foliage-wrapped façade (although this does have important benefits), but its being zeroed in on the most important component that makes any building green—energy.

Another important baby step is to understand that a green building is a building that uses the least amount of energy as possible. Power generation has many by-products and is the root of a lot of the environmental problems we face today.

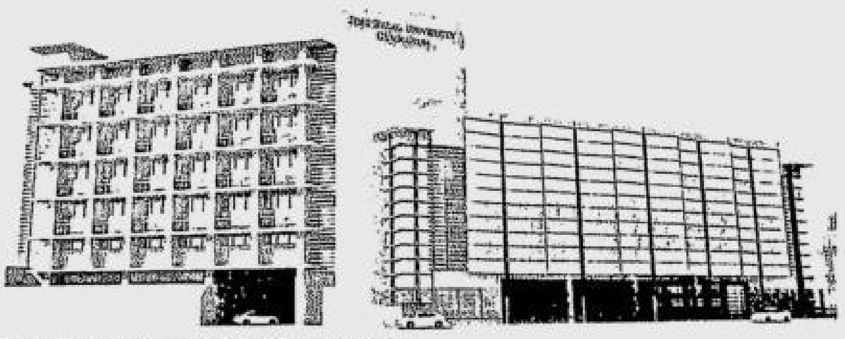
Following this thought, buildings that use the least amount of energy for lighting, cooling and heating, causes less damage to the environment in the long run.

Of all the utilities mentioned, it is air-conditioning that uses the most amount of energy and creates a great amount of heat as a by-product. Lighting is a close second. Thus, anything that improves the efficiency in these two utilities will only serve to make the building "greener."

There are numerous technologies that can make structures efficient. Better air-conditioning systems, more efficient lighting fixtures (LEDs and energy efficient fluorescents) are available in the market and can actually take a chunk out of the electricity bill. These technological savings, however, can be further enhanced by proper design principles that should be the basis of all green buildings.



AZNAR COLISEUM OF SOUTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY IN CEBU



JOSE RIZAL UNIVERSITY GYMNASIUM

Design principles

The design principles are simple:

1. Prevent heat gain into the building through proper sun orientation, sun shading, wall and roof insulation.

2. Orient the building so that it takes advantage of the wind and air movement.

3. Allow natural light (not heat) into as much of the building as possible.

To illustrate these design principles, I would like to site three structures that were developed by my firm in its quest to create buildings that are not energy dependent.

The first example is the Aznar Coliseum of Southwestern University in Cebu City. This was an existing structure that was built some time in the '60s. The commission was to update the building both as a functioning athletic facility and events venue and as an iconographic element in the campus. One of the earliest discussions was the option to air-condition the structure or not. After considering the power consumption of the structure, air-conditioning was seen as a "nice to have" but extremely expensive option.

The solution is a forced natural ventilation system that allowed cool air to enter the structure and exit from the ceiling creating a fully cross-ventilated system.

To achieve this, pivoting wind scoops were added to the exterior of the building. These scoops are adjusted, depending on the prevailing wind (either the *amihan* or the *habagat*) to force air into the building. They are positioned to go against the prevailing wind creating resistance that forces natural air to move in higher velocities into the structure, creating a breeze and cooling the occupants. The hot air is dissipated through the ventilator on the top of the roof. Unfortunately, the renovation of the Aznar Coliseum is currently on hold and as such, the design solution remains an academic theory.

Gymnasium

The second example is the Jose Rizal University Gymnasium on Shaw Boulevard. It is important to understand that the buildings along Shaw create a wind tunnel that pushes air parallel to the road. The gym has stainless-steel sails in the front façade, which are designed to capture this air and force it into the building creating a cooler environment in the gymnasium.

Similarly, the gym uses rooftop ventilators to expel the hot air from the interior of the gym. This solution was brought about by the site conditions, including size and position of the property. Despite these limitations, the gym is designed to have a breezy interior environment that is not dependent on mechanical systems for cooling.

Aside from these sails, the gym uses the more expensive metal halide bulbs. In an energy-cost study for the project, it was determined that the metal halide bulbs would use 82-percent less energy than the fluorescent bulbs of similar illumination values, thus justifying the use of metal halide in the long term.

As an aside, LED bulbs were also explored but, unfortunately, the cost of the bulb is extremely prohibitive. Currently under construction, the JRU Gym will definitely be an example of an energy efficient and environmentally responsive structure in Metro Manila.

Medical school

The third and final example is the Ateneo School of Medicine and Public Health in the Meralco Compound. This building was designed on the premise that there would be interior double-loaded corridors in order to reduce its size. It was also to be a non-air-conditioned structure to minimize the operating costs of the school. The resulting building is S-shaped to capture the wind and push the air toward the interior double-loaded corridor.

Oriented toward the *amihan* and the *habagat*, large walls act as the wind scoops to push air into the corridors. They also act as a design element that define key areas in the façade. Vents were also included in the corridor floor that creates a heat-stack further enhance this air movement. The rising hot air from the lower floors escapes from the vents in the roof and, in the process, draws the air into the corridors.

Another aspect to this building is the incorporation of light shelves. These concrete shelves bounce natural light into the ceiling, allowing it further into the building than normal. This addition minimizes the need for electrical lights along the window during the day.

These examples are non-technology dependent solutions that allow for minimal use of power in the structure, which in return greatly helps the environment. They are a different approach to green architecture that takes into consideration these ideologies that work toward sustainability in the urban setting using design elements that are incorporated into the structures.

Adventures in CONSERVATION

By Jed Santos
Contributor

EVERY TIME ECORESCUE DEVELOPS a conservation program, it always keeps an eye out for potential adventure activities.

When we started with our marine program a couple of years ago, we combined scuba diving with reef surveys, making diving both a recreation and conservation tool. Eventually we felt it would be near-sighted for us to focus only on recreational marine activities without working for the clean air and water that keeps us alive. Since La Mesa has been known to be the "carbon dioxide sink" of Manila, which means the reservoir absorbs a lot of the metro's pollution, it seemed like a good place to start exploring possibilities for our new "cleanERair" program.

Amazing park

Most people have heard of La Mesa Nature Park but, unfortunately, very few have visited the park. When I was a kid, I imagined La Mesa Dam to be a typical dam surrounded by concrete walls and utility buildings; it really wasn't a place I was eager to visit. I never expected it to be an actual forest reservoir at the heart of Metro Manila. Getting there was even more surprising, one minute you're in a crowded and busy street then suddenly you're inside this quiet and serene woodland, as if you were in some remote province.

Glen Flores, the head forester of La Mesa, gave us a background on the reservoir and the challenges it is facing. The watershed was a victim of illegal logging and squatter infiltration years ago, but thanks to the efforts of Bantay Kalikasan, other NGOs and concerned citizens, these activities were suppressed and La Mesa is now recovering from the abuse, although the threat of government-sponsored housing projects within the reserve still looms.

> Appreciating La Mesa as a people's park makes people join the drive to rescue it from misguided development

While La Mesa Nature Park is perfect for picnics and lazy strolls into the woods, my partners and I decided to take advantage of it's growing popularity as a mountain biking destination.

Our La Mesa ride was truly amazing and, I must admit, it was one of the best trails I had ever tried. The shaded trail was a good balance of flat and rolling terrain. Despite the grueling climbs, we were rewarded by a spectacular view of the watershed and Manila.

Serene, peaceful

But what really caught my attention was the serenity and peacefulness in the park even though we knew Fairview Avenue was just outside. It was so quiet that all you could hear were your tires moving across the dirt. I felt so glad that Manila had its very own version of New York's Central Park.

Throughout the ride, we were accompanied by the rangers, which is the SOP for anyone who wishes to ride in La Mesa. We noticed that they didn't have helmets or even shoes, and their bikes constantly broke down. But their stamina and enthusiasm were impressive. We couldn't keep up!

Conserve the conservator

After discovering La Mesa and meeting the rangers, EcoRescue decided to use its resources to help protect the park. We organized numerous biking trips in La Mesa together with our volunteers and friends so they would appreciate the park and realize its importance. We also had meetings with Bantay Kalikasan discussing potential conservation programs.

For people to protect something, they have to love it first, and every person we brought to La Mesa fell in love with it immediately. Our next step was to help those who are directly involved in the protection of the park: the rangers.

One of the core values of EcoRescue is to "conserve the conservator." In our marine programs, the frontline enforcers were the Bantay Dagat Volunteers and Marine Park Rangers. They have a lot in common with the foresters and rangers of La Mesa. Even though it is hard work and the pay is not enough to sustain them, they still continue to serve simply because "nanghihinayang sila" and they care immensely for our country's natural resources.

Funding is usually the problem but oftentimes moral support and empowerment are enough to fuel their passion to fight those who try to destroy our environment.

EcoRescue decided to spearhead a donation drive for the La Mesa Rangers. We tapped the biking community to donate bike parts, safety gear and other accessories for the rangers. Some people even gave brand-new bikes.

La Mesa's future

The success of the donation drive paved the way for our next program in La Mesa Nature Park. We are currently organizing a La Mesa Outdoor Club to empower more people to come and experience what the park has to offer. We are also in the process of establishing the La Mesa Auxiliary Ranger Program, where people can be trained to participate in the protection and conservation of the park under the supervision of the La Mesa Rangers.

So we invite everyone, especially Manileños, to visit La Mesa Nature Park and understand why we have to protect it.

The rationale behind La Mesa's conservation is very simple: Empower people to return to nature and nature will return to them.

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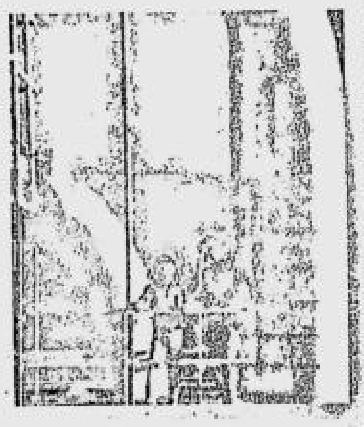

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A. Major Duties and Responsibilities of the Position: (1) Degree of responsibility for decision-making assigned to the position: The EGA will report to the Chief of USAID/Philippines Office of Economic Development and Governance (OEDG), and work in close coordination with other USG and GRP officials. He/she will serve as senior advisor to the USAID Mission Director and the Country Team on Mindanao matters. The EGA will exercise the authority to make program commitments on behalf of USAID although s/he will not exceed his/her authorities as a PSC as specified in the USAID Acquisition Regulation, appendix D; **(2) Level of complexity of work assignments:** The EGA will assure the effective and appropriate implementation of the GEM-3 and MABS Programs.

B. Minimum Qualification Requirements

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- Knowledge of basic office management
- Three to four years general clerical work
- Fluency in English and Filipino, both oral and written

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(Code: OA)

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- Five to six years of relevant work experience including support to finance/accounting/budget, IT, supply/logistics, secretarial, or other administrative work
- Background in human resources, an advantage
- Fluency in English and Filipino, both oral and written

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- Fluency in English and Filipino, both oral and written

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- Six months teaching or training experience, preferably in a contact center environment
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- Critical thinking and active listening skills
- Outstanding Customer Service skills
- Experience in a non-voice web-based account (Email/Chat Support)
- Background in writing or editing is a strong advantage
- Outstanding Floor communications and Grammar coaching skills

Assistant Managers – Six Sigma

Plans, coordinates and conducts Six Sigma training programs and acts as a Project Mentor to Yellow and Green Belt trainees

- Six Sigma Black Belt Certified
- Three years work experience in Audit, preferably as an Assistant Manager/Manager specializing in Quality Assurance/Inspection or equivalent
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- Ability to plan and conduct Six Sigma training programs

IT Projects Manager

Develops and manages IT projects from creation of project proposals to full implementation

- Ability to work on problems of a diverse scope where analysis of situations requires evaluation of identifiable factors
- Six years of working experience in a related field is required for this position
- Sound understanding of Applications, LAN, WAN, Telecom & Voice platforms and appreciation of interplay between these
- Analytical and team management skills are a must
- Exhibits strong interpersonal, communication and decision making skill
- Specializes in IT/Computer - Network/System/Database Admin or equivalent

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Ensures constant quality in the recruitment process and manages the Business Intelligence Team in gathering data and providing analysis on process improvement and market development

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Requirement
- At least 5 to 7 years work experience handling In-bound Call Center / Customer Service
- Operations in a managerial capacity
- Very high customer service orientation
- High initiative, with exceptional communication skills
- Can handle pressure and works well with deadlines
- Has mature and professional mindset / behavior

Team Leader - Call Center

Role
- Supervise the team in service order, dispute, fault entries, credit events and complaints handling to ensure adherence to customer service standards
- Create a realistic volume/transaction forecast, determine optimal staffing level in order to build a flexible work schedule for the team
- Prepare the standard operations reports to document performance for the period

Requirement
- At least 3 years of working experience in progressive quality Customer Service, preferably in the telecommunications / IT / technology-related or service industries
- Very high customer service orientation
- High initiative, with exceptional communication skills
- Can handle pressure and works well with deadlines
- Has mature and professional mindset / behavior

Team Leader - QA

Role
- Will handle and develop Quality Assurance Analysts for performance and process improvement

Requirement
- 3 to 5 years work experience in a manufacturing, telecommunications or call center environment
- 1 to 3 years work experience in leading QA tasks, especially involving a decision-making role
- With experience in leading successful projects for process and performance improvement
- Adept in developing and mentoring QA team members
- With good background in Quality Systems/Methodologies (COPC, ISO, Six Sigma)
- Well versed in MS Power Point, Excel and Word
- Has excellent presentation, interpersonal and communications skills
- Willing to travel throughout all business centers of the company within the country or to other locations as necessary

Team Leader - Training

Role
- Will manage and develop Department Trainers
- Will design and develop training modules for new hires and existing employees

Requirement
- 3 to 5 years work experience in a telecommunications or call center environment
- 1 to 3 years work experience in leading Training / Learning tasks, especially involving a decision-making role
- With experience in leading successful projects or initiatives to improve learning processes or methods
- Adept in developing and mentoring technical trainers
- Skilled in analyzing, designing, developing, implementing and evaluating training modules
- Well-versed in MS Power Point, Excel and Word
- Has excellent presentation, interpersonal and communications skills
- Willing to travel throughout all business centers of the company within the country or to other locations as necessary

Other Positions Available

- **Trainers**
- **QA Specialists (Metro Manila, Bicol, Butuan, Cebu, Davao, Tacloban)**
- **Customer Service Representatives**
- **Telemarketers**

Minimum Requirements
- College graduate
- Computer literate
- Call Center experience an advantage

Interested applicants may send their updated resumes with cover letter to
Recruitment Department, Bayan Telecommunications, Inc., Bayan Corporate Center,
Maginhawa corner Malingap Sts., Teachers Village East, Diliman, Quezon City
Or e-mail it to careers@bayan.com.ph

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- Female; between 35-45 years old
- Graduate of any four (4) year Business Course
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- Capable of improving existing operation systems and procedures in order to achieve the highest customer service quality standards
- Highly analytical and with good business sense
- Highly organized and with strong leadership skills
- Proficient in both oral and written communications
- Proficient in computer applications
- Must have good interpersonal skills and able to maintain a pleasant disposition under a highly stressful working environment

WAREHOUSE MANAGER

- Preferably female; Between 30-45 years old
- Graduate of Engineering, Management or any related course
- With at least five (5) years managerial experience in warehousing operations, logistics, and supply chain
- Proficient in both oral and written communications
- Highly organized and with strong leadership skills
- Proficient in computer applications
- Must have good interpersonal skills and able to maintain a pleasant disposition under a highly stressful working environment

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS ARE TO SUBMIT A COPY OF THEIR CURRICULUM VITAE, TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDS AND A LATEST 2X2 PHOTO TO:

Box# MN-004-07
c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer
Yague & Mascardo Sts.,
corner Chino Roces Ave., Makati City
or
e-mail: esalazar@inquirer.com.ph
subject: GJ

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ptfcf

Philippine Tropical Forest Conservation Foundation

ASSOCIATE PROJECT OFFICER

Full time, 40 hours a week
Salary scale: 18,000.00 to 22,000.00 depending on qualifications and experience
Closing Date: 30 September 2007

Job Description
The Associate Project Officer performs tasks which require advanced skills in community organizing and project planning and implementation in the context of forest conservation and/or resource management, with particular focus on community-based livelihoods and enterprises. Duties include project review, assistance to grantees with enterprise or livelihood activities, liaison, coordination with and/or monitoring of projects.

Essential Skills, Knowledge and Qualifications
- Graduate of an environmental or community development course
- At least three (3) years experience in community organizing and project implementation with focus on community-based enterprises
- Knowledge of forest conservation and community-based resource management principles and practices
- Knowledge of community livelihood and enterprise development principles and practices
- Excellent communication skills, both oral and written
- Excellent organizing and coordinating skills.
- Above-average skills in the use of computers and related software applications.

Closing Date and Application Procedure
Closing date for all applications is on 30 September 2007. To apply, please send to admin@ptfcf.org a CV and covering letter addressed to:

Atty. Jose Andres A. Canivel
Executive Director
Philippine Tropical Forest Conservation Foundation

Further Information
For more information on this position, or for an informal discussion, please contact the Executive Director, at telephone numbers (02) 891 0595 and (02) 864 0287 or visit the PTFCF website at **www.ptfcf.org.**

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ptfcf

Philippine Tropical Forest Conservation Foundation

COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

Full time, 40 hours a week
Salary scale: 20,000.00 to 25,000.00 depending on qualifications and experience
Closing Date: 30 September 2007

Job Description
The Communications Officer will be responsible for the development, management and maintenance of all Philippine Tropical Forest Conservation Foundation (PTFCF) communications, including books, manuals, brochures, posters, publications and the organizational website.

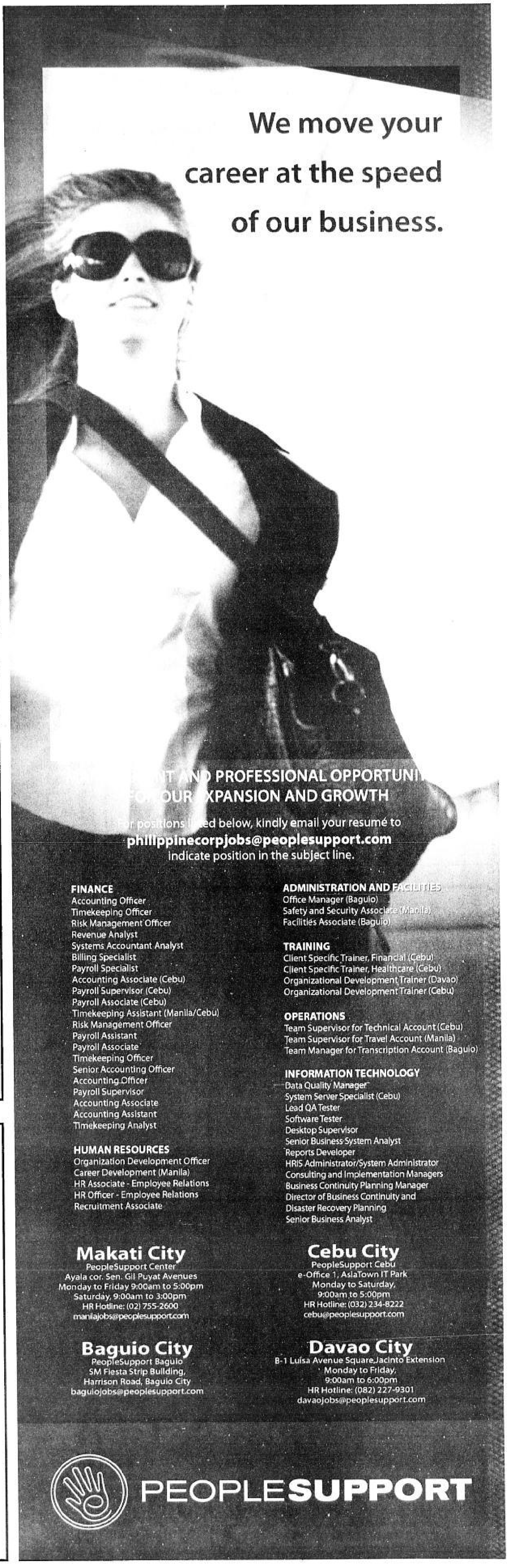
Duties of the Communications Officer will also include the development of effective stakeholder relations and communication strategies and overseeing their continued development and improvement. Aside from fulfilling the communications aspects of the position, the post-holder will undertake specific topic-based research relating to forests and forest conservation.

Essential Skills, Knowledge and Qualifications
- Graduate of a communications related course
- Excellent communications and research skills
- Minimum of two years experience in a similar role
- Experienced in the use of desktop publishing and editing software
- Experienced in the use of HTML and other web scripting languages
- Marketing, communications and campaigns experience or knowledge
- Supervisory or managerial skills

Closing Date and Application Procedure
Closing date for all applications is on 30 September 2007. To apply, please send to admin@ptfcf.org a CV and covering letter addressed to:

Atty. Jose Andres A. Canivel
Executive Director
Philippine Tropical Forest Conservation Foundation

Further Information
For more information on this position, or for an informal discussion, please contact the Executive Director, at telephone numbers (02) 891 0595 and (02) 864 0287 or send an email to **admin@ptfcf.org.**



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Timekeeping Officer
Risk Management Officer
Revenue Analyst
Systems Accountant Analyst
Billing Specialist
Payroll Specialist
Accounting Associate (Cebu)
Payroll Supervisor (Cebu)
Payroll Associate (Cebu)
Timekeeping Assistant (Manila/Cebu)
Risk Management Officer
Payroll Assistant
Payroll Associate
Timekeeping Officer
Senior Accounting Officer
Accounting Officer
Payroll Supervisor
Accounting Associate
Accounting Assistant
Timekeeping Analyst

HUMAN RESOURCES
Organization Development Officer
Career Development (Manila)
HR Associate - Employee Relations
HR Officer - Employee Relations
Recruitment Associate

ADMINISTRATION AND FACILITIES
Office Manager (Baguio)
Safety and Security Associate (Manila)
Facilities Associate (Baguio)

TRAINING
Client Specific Trainer, Financial (Cebu)
Client Specific Trainer, Healthcare (Cebu)
Organizational Development Trainer (Davao)
Organizational Development Trainer (Cebu)

OPERATIONS
Team Supervisor for Technical Account (Cebu)
Team Supervisor for Travel Account (Manila)
Team Manager for Transcription Account (Baguio)

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
Data Quality Manager
System Server Specialist (Cebu)
Lead QA Tester
Software Tester
Desktop Supervisor
Senior Business System Analyst
Reports Developer
HRIS Administrator/System Administrator
Consulting and Implementation Managers
Business Continuity Planning Manager
Director of Business Continuity and
Disaster Recovery Planning
Senior Business Analyst

Makati City
PeopleSupport Center
Ayala cor. Sen. Gil Puyat Avenues
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HR Hotline: (02) 755-2600
manilajobs@peoplesupport.com

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PeopleSupport Cebu
e-Office 1, AsiaTown IT Park
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HR Hotline: (032) 234-8222
cebu@peoplesupport.com

Baguio City
PeopleSupport Baguio
SM Fiesta Strip Building,
Harrison Road, Baguio City
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Davao City
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- Female; between 23-28 years old
- Graduate of a four (4) year business related course or Fashion Merchandising
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- Must have excellent oral and written communication skills
- Must be analytical and results-oriented
- Must have good fashion sense
- Must possess a pleasing and dynamic personality
- Must be computer literate

BOUTIQUE MANAGERS / SALES SUPERVISORS

- Female; between 25-30 years old; at least 5'2 in height
- Graduate of a four (4) year course
- Preferably with work experience in a fashion retail establishment
- Must possess a pleasing and aggressive personality
- Must be very good in customer relations
- Must be willing to work on weekends and holidays
- Must be proficient in both oral and written communications
- Must be computer literate

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- Male; between 25-30 years old; at least 5'5 in height
- Graduate of a four (4) year course
- EXPERIENCE OR UNDERSTANDING OF TAILORING WILL BE HIGHLY CONSIDERED
- Must possess a pleasing and aggressive personality
- Must be very good in customer relations
- Must be willing to work on weekends and holidays
- Must be proficient in both oral and written communications
- Must be computer literate

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANTS

- Female; between 25-30 years old
- Graduate of any Business related course
- At least two (2) years experience in office management
- Must be knowledgeable in finance work
- Must have excellent oral and written communication skills
- Must possess a pleasing and dynamic personality and can deal well with all levels in the organization
- Must have impeccable integrity and good moral character
- Must be computer literate

INVENTORY CONTROL OFFICER
COST ACCOUNTANT

- Female; Between 25-30 years old; Pleasing personality
- Must be a Certified Public Accountant (CPA)
- Must have at least two (2) years related work experience in Accounting work (Inventory / Costing / General Accounting / Budget)
- Must be proficient in MS office applications (Excel/Word/Powerpoint)
- Must have strong financial systems background
- Must be proficient in both oral and written communications
- Must be highly analytical and results-oriented
- Must possess a pleasing and dynamic personality, impeccable integrity and good moral character

PROCESS ANALYST

- Male or Female; Between 25-30 years old; Pleasing personality
- Must be an Accounting graduate
- Must have at least two (2) years related work experience in Audit and Systems Administration
- Must be proficient in MS office applications (Excel/Word/Powerpoint)
- Must be proficient in both oral and written communications
- Must be highly analytical and results-oriented
- Must possess a pleasing and dynamic personality, impeccable integrity and good moral character

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(Executive Administration)
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- Graduate of Business Degree Major in Accounting
- Must be a CPA
- With at least five (5) years work experience as General Accounting Supervisor or three (3) years experience as Chief Accountant
- Knowledge in operation of Word and Excel

E-mail your application letter and comprehensive resumé to:
personnel@cfamedia.org
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- A graduate of Business Administration and/or Marketing course
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This position is strongly customer focused, requiring an in-depth understanding of the customer's business. Success will depend on the ability to develop a motivated team, to meet customers' expectations.

The person should possess a tertiary education in Engineering and/or Technical course graduate with a minimum of 3 years supervisory experience of Service personnel. Actual hands on experience working with heavy equipment preferred.

APPLICANTS MUST HAVE THE FOLLOWING QUALIFICATIONS:

1. **Capability of planning workshop activities to fully utilize available manpower complement.**
2. **Lead a group of technician/service oriented personnel to ensure implementation of set standards and programs related but not limited to safety, health and service quality.**
3. **Provide assistance to supervised personnel in implementing a systematic approach in troubleshooting and/or repairs being undertaken on products included in the company portfolio.**
4. **Conceptualize process improvement programs within assigned area of responsibility.**
5. **Liaise with third party contractors when concerns related to outsourced parts and services arises to ensure timely delivery of commitments given to external customers.**
6. **Coordinate with internal customers (i.e. Account Managers, Operations Manager) on issues related to settlement of external customer concerns.**

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- Starting Monthly Salary of P50,000.00 plus commission

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Legislators bat for bigger DOLE budget

KEY LEGISLATORS, including some congressmen from the minority, have pushed to boost the proposed 2008 budget of the Department of Labor and Employment (Dole) whose yearly appropriation, despite its role in the country's economic growth, remains one of the lowest among the 20 government Departments.

This developed during a recent House Appropriations Committee hearing presided by Representative Edcel C. Lagman, where Labor and Employment Secretary Arturo D. Brion, assisted by Dole officials, briefed the House of Representatives on the Dole's budgetary commitments for 2008.

In the course of the hearing, the said Committee made record of the fact that Dole's huge mandate covers the country's 36 million workers and almost eight million overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) — prompting some of the committee members to call for a need to make the Dole's budgetary capacity more commensurate to these huge local and global responsibilities.

In particular, opposition Rep. Rufus Rodriguez (2nd District, Cagayan De Oro City) remarked that despite the scale of its responsibilities, the Dole's proposed budget of P6.208 billion for 2008 is less than one percent or around 0.5 percent of the P1.2 trillion proposed budget of the government for 2008.

In the House hearing, Secretary Brion defended and upheld the Filipino worker as one of the most productive in the world.

Brion said this is manifested in the unceasing global preference for the country's highly skilled OFWs who are now being deployed, in response to the global demand, practically everywhere in the world at the rate of more than one million annually.

But, he indicated that the OFWs are not exports or commodities, as the main policy of the Philippine government centers upon ensuring and reinforcing their protection, and not marketing.

Aside from the OFWs, the Dole also covers the 36.4 million Filipino workers locally, of whom almost half, or 15.2 million, are in the informal sector, along with the employers in the 782,980 establishments nationwide.

The Dole's mandates, Brion said, are to promote opportunities and develop the country's manpower resources, protect and promote the welfare of workers, and maintain industrial peace.

Brion also highlighted the fact that the Philippine economy is growing on an unprecedented industrial peace.

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- Previous working experience is an advantage.
- Preferably resides in the areas of Las Pinas, Paranaque, Muntinlupa, Sucat, Bicutan, Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Mandaluyong, Pasig

For interested applicants, please bring your Resume or Bio-Data at: Unit 306 Aurora Arcade Almanza I
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Or email: jobs@manpowerexpress.com

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Reporting To:
The President

Purpose of the Role:
As Legal Manager, has specific responsibility of providing analysis and counsel on legal, policy, and environmental issues. Shall also anticipate legal risks facing the company, and develop and recommend company policy and position on legal issues.

Qualifications:
- Female, not more than 40 years old
- At least 5 years of related experience
- Comprehensive knowledge of labor and maritime law
- Assertive, highly analytical, organized, proficient in writen and oral communication, very good managerial and time management skills
- Computer literate

CORPORATE PLANNING ASSISTANT

Reporting To:
VP – Corporate Planning

Purpose of the Role:
Provide assistance to the VP-Corporate Planning in the development of new business as well as in the operational aspects of the business by conducting market research and analysis and preparing relevant reports.

Qualifications:
- Male or Female, not more than 35 years old
- At least 3 years of related experience
- College graduate with a degree in BS Industrial Engineering or any related course
- Highly analytical, proficient in oral and written communication, strong project management skills, with the ability to manage multiple projects and priorities effectively, strong interpersonal skills
- Computer literate

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- Can work in minimal supervision

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- Graduate of Computer Engineering, Computer Science or its equivalent from reputable schools
- Male/Female
- Knowledge in installing different softwares and knowledge in PC assembly and troubleshooting
- Can work in minimal supervision

Systems Engineers

Requirements:
- Graduate of Computer Science, Information Technology or its equivalent from reputable schools
- Male/Female
- Advance knowledge in Visual Studio, PHP, ASP, Java, HTML, XMA, CSS, Crystal Report, MySQL, SQL, MS ACCESS
- Can work in minimal supervision

Service Coordinator

Requirements:
- Graduate of Computer Science, Management Science or its equivalent from reputable schools
- Female
- Fluent in English and with pleasing personality

Please submit your resumé at:
Valueline Systems and Solutions Corporation
#23 Matalino St., Central Diliman, Quezon City
or email at jasmine.garbosa@valueline.com.ph
hr@valueline.com.ph

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- With at least 2 years supervisory experience in rendering IT consulting and IT audit services to various industries such as telecommunications and financial services.
- Has knowledge of and implementation exposure to different IT frameworks, such as CobiT, ITIL, CMMI, and ISO 27000 standard.
- Has knowledge of mainframe-based systems and security packages, e.g. RACF, ACF/2, ADABAS, Top Secret and ERP systems, such as SAP and Oracle.
- Has knowledge of and exposure to Basel II implementation, IAS 39 compliance, SOX and other regulatory requirements.
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Make your move!

Please indicate position and send your résumé to:

Human resources department

Isla Lipana & Co./
PricewaterhouseCoopers
29th Floor, Philamlife Tower
8767 Paseo de Roxas
1226 Makati City

Telephone +63 (2) 845 2728
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- **BUSINESS MANAGERS (Branch Managers)** **(Code: BM)** Responsible for the management of the Branch's profitability, sales and service, budgets, personnel and workflow requirements aimed at developing quality and lasting business activities, which meet goals and institutional profit objectives. Available positions for Metro Manila, Luzon, Visayas & Mindanao Branches
- **ACCOUNT OFFICERS for CORPORATE BANKING and PRIVATE BANKING GROUPS** **(up to AVP rank) (Code: AO)** Responsible for soliciting, evaluating, processing and managing corporate accounts to achieve predetermined portfolio levels and income targets.
- **MARKETING OFFICERS for TRUST SERVICES GROUP** **(Code: MO-TSG)** Responsible for developing marketing strategies, increasing/ soliciting accounts, handling of continuous marketing respective unit's services to achieve revenue / volume objectives and grow client contact base.

All applicants should have above average scholastic records, good oral & written communication skills and pleasing personality. For officer positions, at least two years relevant experience is required. Ability to speak in Chinese & having a ready network that may be tapped as client base for marketing positions is an advantage.

Interested parties may send their Letter of Application (indicate respective job CODE listed above in the upper right-hand corner of your letter envelope) together with a comprehensive Resume with 2x2 picture and photocopy of Transcript of Records to:

HRMDG–Recruitment & Placement Section
14/F, Philippine First Building,
6764 Ayala Avenue, Makati City

OR ***email us at***
recruitment@bankcom.com.ph
(Indicate the job CODE on the *SUBJECT* of the email)

For more information about us, you may visit our website:
www.bankcom.com.ph

Our client, **Bayan Telecommunications** is in need of the following positions:

TELEMARKETERS

Role: Will sell DSL subscriptions by telephone.

Appreciates the art of selling
Enjoys surfing the Internet
Computer literate
College Graduate
Good Communication Skills

TELECOLLECTION AGENTS

Role: Call up subscribers to remind them of their billing obligations.

College Graduate
Good Communication Skills
Computer Literate

For those interested may apply by sending their resumé to jcerecruit@gmail.com. We entertain walk-in applicants.

2nd floor, Room 217 Jiao Bldg.
Timog Ave. corner Quezon Ave., Quezon City

Be part of the team of successful Business Partners in the growing field of professional diagnostics

We are inviting dealers or distributors to grow with the company's vision with our expansion program in strategic regional areas nationwide --- proudly selling state-of-the-art, unique and well-established global brands.

Interested parties may send the following:

1. Letter of Intent
2. Company Profile which details the network of clients, sales structure, logistics capability
3. Audited Financial Statement

to: **diagnostics_dealers@yahoo.com**

We are in need of driven and competit

FOR HEAD OFFICE

Admistrative & Facilities Department

ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS (CODE: AFD-EE)

Graduate of BS Electrical Engineering, preferably with PRC License; at least 3 years in electrical, construction, and design of buildings; must have good communication and interpersonal skills; Male, not over 45 years old .

Audit Department

AUDITORS (CODE: AUDIT-AS)

Graduate of BS Accountancy, CPA; at least 2 year experience in financial audit from commercial / universal bank; must be analytical and results-oriented; Experience in risk-based audit is preferred; not over 35 years old

IT AUDITORS (CODE: IT-AUDIT)

Graduate of BS Accountancy or Computer Science; at least 2 years experience in IT Audit covering operations, applications/software, and financial audit; knowledgeable in the following platforms: AS/400, PC based, internet based, and Lotus Server; must be analytical and results-oriented; not over 35 years old

Cash Center Services Unit

CASHIER (CODE: CCS-CASH)

Graduate of any four-year business course; at least 2 years experience as Cash Assistant or Assistant Cashier in a commercial or universal bank; good in oral and written communications; female; willing to be assigned in Binondo; not over 30 years old

Central Operations Department

CALL CENTER OPERATIONS MANAGER (CODE: CCC-CCOM)

Graduate any four-year course from a reputable university; at least 3 years managerial experience in call center operations preferably with a Quality Assurance background in a bank call center; must be customer service-oriented, detail-oriented and result-oriented; must possess excellent communication and interpersonal skills; not over 35 yearsold

CUSTOMER SERVICE OFFICERS (CODE: CCC-CSO)

Graduate of any four-year business course; at least 2 years experience in inbound customer service preferably gained from a call center of a bank or credit card company; responsibilities include but not limited to inbound customer service support, cross-selling of bank products, and handling customer problems in compliance to established complaint resolution standards and processes; computer-literate; must possess good communication and interpersonal skills; not over 35 years old

MERCHANT SERVICES OFFICERS (CODE: CCC-MSO)

Graduate of any four-year course; at least 2 years experience in providing customer service support to accredited merchants in the following areas: POS terminal servicing, transaction problems / disputes, and card-related requests / problems; must be willing to work in shifting schedules and have good oral and written communication skills; not over 35 years old

CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVES (CODE: CCC-CSR)

Graduate of any four-year course; at least 6 months customer service experience preferably gained from a bank call center; must have good communication and interpersonal skills; computer-literate; not over 25 years old

Comptrollership

CLG SUPPORT TEAM HEAD (CODE: LAU-CSTH)

Graduate of any four-year business course; at least 5 years supervisory experience in Consumer Loans Processing with any Financing Institution, Commercial/Universal bank; must be knowledgeable in loans documentation, lending procedures, and operations; must possess good communication and interpersonal skills; not over 40 years old

DOCUMENTATION TEAM HEAD (CODE: LAU-DTH)

Graduate of any four- year business course; at least 5 years supervisory experience with a financial institution or commercial/universal bank; knowledgeable in loans documentation for corporate / commerical accounts, lending procedures, and operations; should have an experience in signature verification; must possess good communication and interpersonal skills; not over 35 years old

SECURITIES AND CUSTODIANSHIP TEAM HEAD (CODE: LAU-SCTH)

Graduate of any four-year business course preferably Banking and Finance or Accountancy; at least 5 years supervisory experience in loan securities and custodianship, lending procedures, and operations gained from a commercial / universal bank; must possess good communication and interpersonal skills; not over 40 years old

SECURE COLLATERAL TEAM HEAD (CODE: LAU-SCH)

Graduate of any four-year business course; at least 5 years supervisory experience in loans documentation for consumer and commercial accounts, lending procedures, and operations gained from a commercial / universal bank; should have an experience in signature verification; computer-literate; must possess good communication and interpersonal skills; not over 40 years old

DATA CONTROL OFFICER (CODE: LAU-DATA)

Graduate of any four-year business course; at least 3 years experience in loans processing and operations gained from a financing institution or commercial / universal bank; knowledgeable in loan documentation, lending procedures, and operations; computer-literate; must possess good communication and interpersonal skills; not over 35 years old

DOCUMENTATION OFFICERS (CODE: LAU-DOCU)

Graduate of any four-year business course; at least 3 years experience in loans processing and operations gained from a financing institution or commercial / universal bank; must possess good communication and interpersonal skills; not over 35 years old

PAYROLL OFFICER (CODE: GAU-PJAM)

Graduate of BS Accountancy; at least 3 years experience in payroll and general accounting; must possesses good interpersonal and communication skills; computer-literate; female, not over 35 years old

REGISTRATION OFFICER (CODE: LAU-RSJAM)

Graduate of any four-year business course; at least 3 years experience in loans processing, and mortgage registration procedures; with good communication and interpersonal skills; computer-literate; not over 35 years old

SECURE COLLATERAL OFFICER (CODE: LAU-SJAM)

Graduate of any four-year business course; at least 3 years experience in loans documentation, processing, and operations gained from a financing institution or commercial / universal bank; must be knowledgeable in loans documentation of both corporate and commercial accounts, lending procedures, and operations; computer-literate; should have an experience in signature verification; must possess good communication and interpersonal skills; not over 35 years old

SECURITIES CUSTODIANSHIP OFFICER (CODE: LAU-SCJAM)

Graduate of any four-year business course preferably Banking and Finance or Accountancy; at least 3 years experience in loans securities custodianship processing, documentation, and administration; computer-literate; not over 35 years old

Consumer Lending Group

TELESALES CHANNEL HEAD (CODE: CLG-TCH)

Graduate of any four-year course from a reputable university; at least 2 years proven track record in telesales for credit cards or personal loans, gained from a financial institution or any commercial / universal bank; with excellent communication, interpersonal, and negotiation skills; computer-literate; not over 35 years old

SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT MANAGER (CODE CLG-SDM)

Graduate of BS Computer Science, Information Technology, Engineering or any related course; at least 5 years experience in systems and methods and can effectively handle implementation of projects involving financial institutions, preferably on consumer loans and credit card, or 7 years progressive experience in system implementation with varying size and complexity; knowledgeable in basic programming, process engineering, system development life cycle, business analysis, and various project management tools and principles; with strong analytical and problem solving skills; must possess excellent communication and interpersonal skills; not over 35 years old

ASSISTANT PRODUCT MANAGER (CODE: CLG-APM)

Graduate of any four-year business course preferably Marketing; at least 2 years experience in sales and marketing, product development; implementation of acquisition programs and campaigns, gained preferably from a bank with focus on consumer loans; with good communication and interpersonal skills; must be a team player; not over 35 years old

ACCOUNT OFFICERS FOR HOME LOANS (CODE: CLG -HL)

Graduate of BS Marketing or any four-year business related course; at least 3 years experience in promoting and marketing of retail home loan facilities and CTS financing ; responsibilities include but not limited to evaluation of loan applications, site inspection of project for accreditation of developers, product orientation to sales agents and brokers; must have good presentation and communication skills; not over 35 years old

ACCOUNT OFFICERS FOR PERSONAL LOANS (CODE: CLG-PL)

Graduate of any four-year business course; at least 2 years experience in account soclicitation of personal loans gained from a financial institution; must possess planning, selling, presentation, and people skills; preferably with proven track record in sales; knowledgeable with computer softwares including word processing, spreadsheets, and presentation; not over 35 years old

DEALER COORDINATORS (CODE: CLG-DC)

Graduate of any four year course;at least 3 years experience in loans processing and soliciting auto loan applications from car dealers/brokers; not over 35 years old

MERCHANT ACQUIRING ACCOUNT OFFICERS (CODE: CLG-MERCH)

Graduate of any four-year business related course preferably Marketing and Sales; at least 2 years experience in merchant acquisition of credit cards gained from a bank or credit card firm; must have a thorough knowledge of card center functions; must have pleasing personality; must possess excellent communication, interpersonal, and selling skills; willing to travel; not over 35 years old

PROCESS DOCUMENTATION OFFICER (CODE: CLG-PDO)

Graduate of BS Industrial Engineering, Accountancy or any related Business course; at least 2 years experience in process engineering systems and /or internal control preferablyon credit card and consumer loans or 4 years progressive experience in a financial institution; knowledgeable in process flow and engineering and quality management tools; possess excellent analytical, communication, and interpersonal skills; computer-literate; not over 30 years old

SYSTEMS OFFICERS (CODE: CLG-SO)

Graduate of Engineering, Computer Science or any IT related course; At least 2 years experience in systems implementation, projects, and data processing operations, gained preferably from a bank or credit card industry; or 4 years progressive experience in the same function; knowledgeable in basic programming and systems development life cycle; must have the following qualities: strong analytical and problem solving skills, strong project management and organizational skills, excellent communication and interpersonal skills; ability to work in fast-paced and dynamic environment; not over 35 years old

MERCHANT INSTALLMENT MARKETING OFFICER (CODE: CLG-MMO)

Graduate of any Marketing related course; at least 3 years experience in communications and /or financial services, with emphasis in consumer products or financial services marketing; Experience in a credit card firm is an advantage;with project management skills and experience; can conceptualize, define and manage various card promotions and exclusive tie-ups with the aim of increasing card utilization; must possess excellent communication, interpersonal, and negotiation skills; female, not over 30 years old

MARKETING OFFICER-CARD USAGE (CODE: CLG-MSCU)

Graduate of any marketing-related course; at least 2 years Marketing experience in a credit card firm is an advantage; with excellent communication, interpersonal, and negotiation skills; not over 30 years old

BRANCH SALES OFFICER (CODE: CLG-BSO)

Graduate of any four-year course preferably Marketing or Business related course; at least 2 years experience in Sales / Sales Management / Marketing preferably gained from a credit card firm; must possess excellent communication, interpersonal, and negotiation skills; with pleasing personality; willing to render overtime and do fieldwork; not over 30 years old

IPU TEAM LEADERS (CODE: CLG-IPU)

Graduate of any four-year business related course; at least 2 years experience in any operations or credit processing, preferably in a credit card company; must be computer literate and proficient with PC spreadsheet and word processing programs; must possess good supervisory and management skills; can work with minimal supervision; must be willing to work on a graveyard shift, not over 30 years old

CREDIT OFFICER FOR PERSONAL LOANS & CREDIT CARD (CODE: CLG-CO)

Graduate of any four- year business related course; at least years experience in retail credit review covering the area of Application Processing and Evaluation; knowledgeable in basic credit systems/ solutions; must be able to comfortably interface with IT/ System Support and third party service providers; must be computer-literate, detail-oriented, and systematic; with good communication and interpersonal skills; not over 30 years old

SERVICE FULFILLMENT OFFICERS (CODE: CLG-SFU)

Graduate of any four-year business course; at least 2 years experience in customer service handling housing and personal loans and credit cards gained from a commercial / universal bank; must possess excellent communication and interpersonal skills; computer-literate; willing to render overtime, not over 30 years old

Credit & Risk Management Unit

RISK MODELLING / SCORING OFFICER (CODE: CRM-RMSO)

Graduate of BS Mathematics or Statistics, postgraduate or degree will be an advantage; at least 3 years of actual work experience, majority of which is in a Corporate / Consumer credit, risk and/or analytics experience in a bank or financial institution; 1-2 years experience in actual Scorecards development or modelling; with good technical and analytical skills; must possess excellent communication and interpersonal skills; not over 40 years old

CREDIT REVIEWER (CODE: CRM-CR)

Graduate of any four-year Business or Finance course with Accounting Units, preferably from a reputable university; at least 1 year experience in credit review or account management; with above-average written and oral communication skills, computer-literate; must be analytical, detailed, results-oriented, and self-motivated; willing to travel; not over 35 years old

CREDIT ANALYSTS (CODE: CRM-CA)

Graduate of any four-year course from a reputable university; at least 3 years experience in credit evaluation of a bank's risk assets across products (i.e., Letter of Credit, Treasury, Trust, etc.) in a supervisory level; must have good background in accounting and financial tools and techniques; with good in negotiation and communication skills; not over 35 years old

FINANCIAL ANALYSTS (CODE: CRM-FA)

Graduate of any four-year business course or Economics from a reputable university; computer-literate especially in MS Office softwares; with good negotiation and communication skills; not over 35 years old

Institutional Banking Group

RELATIONSHIP MANAGERS (CODE: IBG-RM)

Graduate of any four-year business course from a reputable university; at least 5 years experience in account solicitation, credit evaluation, preparation of credit proposal, monitoring and managing accounts for corporate loans gained from a universal bank; with existing portfolio consisting of top 1,000 corporation, with pleasing personality and good interpersonal skills; good oral and written communication skills; not over 35 years old

ACCOUNT OFFICERS (CODE: IBG-AO)

Graduate of any four year business course from a reputable university; at least 5 years experience, of which 3 years in an officer level, in account solicitation and relationship management principally for commercial and medium market accounts;with existing portfolio consisting of SME and middle market accounts; must be knowledgeable in credit evaluation with pleasing personality and good communication and presentation skills; not over 35 years old

Information Technology Department

SERVICE DESK OFFICERS (CODE: IT-SDS)

Graduate of BS Computer Science or any related course, at least 2 years experience in IT system support / helpdesk,

BDO

ive individuals to fill in the following vacancies:

knowledgeable with basic AS/400 operations, network concept, and PC troubleshooting; must be familiar with various Windows Operating System such Win 95, Win 98, WinNT, Win2000, WinXP, productivity and office automation softwares such as MS Office and Open Office, and e-mail applications; with good analytical and communication skills; knowledgeable in basic technical skills; must have a pleasing voice and personality; not over 35 years old

APPLICATION SUPPORT OFFICERS (CODE: IT-ASA)
Graduate of BS Computer Science or Computer Engineering; at least 2 years experience in PC and operating systems installation and troubleshooting, gained preferably from a bank; must be knowledgeable in various Windows operating systems, ICBS system (FISERV, CASA applications), AS400 Client Access, and netware connectivity; not over 35 years old

WINDOWS SYSTEMS ADMINISTRATOR (CODE: IT-SA)
Graduate of BS Computer Science or any related course; 2 years experience in Systems Administration in Windows 2000/2003 environment preferred but not required; not over 35 years old

UNIX SYSTEMS ADMINISTRATOR (CODE: IT-UNIX)
Graduate of BS Computer Science or any related course; experience in any UNIX or LINUX Operating System is preferred but not required; preferably with at least 1 year experience in managing Oracle or Informix database; basic understanding of the banking business, data communications, and project management an advantage but not required; not over 35 years old

UNIX COMPUTER OPERATOR (CODE: IT-UCO)
Graduate of BS - Computer Science or any computer related courses; at least 1 year experience in AS400 and Unix Operations; knowledgeable in banking applications, basic networking; hands on experience in ICBS is an advantage; Must be willing to render overtime; with good communication and interpersonal skills; not over 35 years old

International Banking Unit

IBU OFFICER (CODE: IBU-JAM)
Graduate of any four-year business course; at least 1 year supervisory experience in Imports Section of a Bank ; with good communication and interpersonal skills; not over 35 years old

Marketing Communications Group

DATABASE MANAGER (CODE: MCG-DB)
Graduate of any four-year business course; at least 2 years experience in SAS or any statistical software usage; background in branch operations is an advantage; analytical and a fast learner; has excellent communication and interpersonal skills

Property Management Department

REDEMPTION OFFICER (CODE: PMD-RJAM)
Graduate of any four-year business course; at least 1 year experience in property management; with good communication, interpersonal, and negotiation skills; not over 35 years old

PROPERTY ADMINISTRATOR (CODE: PMD-PA)
Graduate of any four-year business course; at least 2 years experience in government offices dealing; computer-literate; male, not over 30 years old

Transaction Banking Group

ATM CHANNEL MANAGER (CODE: TBG-ATM)
Graduate of any four-year business course preferably Marketing Management; at least 3 years experience in marketing and product management of ATM services gained from a commercial or universal bank; knowledgeable in marketing and MIS; with good communication, interpersonal, negotiation, and technical skills; not over 35 years old

SYSTEMS AND METHOD OFFICERS (CODE:TBG-SMO)
Preferably a graduate BS Industrial Engineering, BS. Computer Science, Business Administration with Computer Applications, or BS Accountancy; at least 2 years experience in a bank or financial institution as Systems and Methods Staff or Supervisor; knowledgeable of banking application systems; with above average communication, process analysis, and documentation skills; working knowledge or experience in ISO Certification, Kaizen or BPR projects is an advantage; analytical and computer-literate; a team player; not over 35 years old

CUSTOMER IMPLEMENTATION OFFICERS (CODE: TBG-CIO)
Graduate of any four year course; at least one year Project Management Experience; Cash Management Experience is a plus; has ability to establish priorities, work independently and proceed with objective with minimal supervision; possesses excellent communication skills; not over 35 years old

Trust Department

TRUST MARKETING OFFICER (CODE: TRUST-MO)
Graduate of any four-year business course; at least 3 years experience in Trust marketing and solicitation of accounts, development / implementation of strategic marketing plans gained from a commercial / universal bank; ability to speak Chinese is an advantage; not over 40 years old

TRUST ACCOUNT OFFICER (CODE: TRUST-AO)
Graduate of any four year business course; at least 3 years experience in documentation and liaison work gained from the Trust Department of a bank; must be knowledgeable in arranging agreements for Trust and other fiduciary accounts; must be willing to do field work; male, not over 35 years old

JR. MARKETING OFFICERS (CODE: TRUST-JMO)
Graduate of any four-year business course preferably from a reputable university; at least 3 years experience in providing sales, marketing, and administrative support to Marketing Officers; must have good presentation, communication and interpersonal skills; computer-literate; not over 30 years old

For Various Head Office Positions

LOANS ASSISTANTS (CODE: LAU-LA)
Graduate of any four-year course; at least 6 months experience in loans processing and documentation, gained from a commercial or universal bank; computer literate; not over 25 years old

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIES (CODE: ES)
Graduate of any four-year course; must have good analytical and planning skills; must be good in oral and written communications; with pleasing personality; computer-literate; female, not over 25 years old

FOR REGIONAL OFFICE

ACCOUNT OFFICERS (CODE: IBG-AO)
Graduate of any four year business course from a reputable university; at least 5 years experience, of which 3 years in an officer level, in account solicitation and relationship management principally for commercial and medium market accounts;with existing portfolio consisting of SME and middle market accounts; must be knowledgeable in credit evaluation; with pleasing personality and good communication and presentation skills; must be residents of Angeles, Bulacan, and Pampanga; not over 35 years old

ACCOUNT OFFICERS FOR PERSONAL LOANS (CODE: CLG-PL)
Graduate of any four-year business course; at least 2 years experience in account soclicitation of personal loans gained from a financial institution; must possess planning, selling, presentation, and people skills; preferably with proven track record in sales; knowledgeable with computer softwares including word processing, spreadsheets, and presentation; must be residents of Cebu and Iloilo; not over 35 years old

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE (CODE: ECN-AE)
Graduate of any four-year course; at least 2 years experience in sales and marketing gained from a credit card company; must possess good communication, interpersonal, and negotiation skills;must be resident of Cagayan De Oro; not over 30 years old

CREDIT OFFICER (CODE: CLG-CO)
Graduate of any four-year business related course; at least 2 years experience in retail credit review covering the area of Application Processing and Evaluation; knowledgeable in basic credit systems/ solutions; must be able to comfortably interface with IT/ System Support and third party service providerss; must be computer-literate, detail-oriented, and systematic with good communication and interpersonal skills, must be resident of Cebu; not over 30 years old

DOCUMENTATION OFFICERS (CODE: LAU-DOCU)
Graduate of any four-year business course; at least 3 years experience in loans processing and operations gained from a financing institution or commercial / universal bank; must possess good communication and interpersonal skills; must be residents of Baguio, Batangas, San Pablo, Dagupan, Iloilo, Bacolod, Davao, and Cagayan de Oro; not over 35 years old

LOANS ASSISTANT (CODE: LAU-LA)
Graduate of any four-year course; at least 6 months experience in loans processing and documentation, gained from a commercial or universal bank; computer literate; must be a resident of Pampanga; not over 25 years old

JR. APPRAISAL STAFF (CODE: CRM-JAS)
Graduate of any of Civil, Mechanical, Geodetic Engineering or Architecture but not necessarily a board passer; at least 2 years experience as an appraiser; knowledgeable with AUTOCAD or any plotting device; computer-literate; with good communication and interpersonal skills; must be a resident of Davao; not over 27 years old

FOR BRANCHES NATIONWIDE

BRANCH MANAGERS (CODE: BM)
Graduate of any four-year business course; at least 5 years experience in branch operations and marketing in a commercial or universal bank; excellent managerial skills; able to implement effective marketing strategies; not over 40 years old

BRANCH CASHIERS (CODE: BC)
Graduate of any four-year business course; at least 2 years experience as Cash Assistant or Assistant Cashier in a commercial bank; good in oral and written communications; female, not over 35 years old

BRANCH ACCOUNTANTS (CODE: BA)
Graduate of BS Accountancy, preferably a CPA; at least 1 year experience as bank Branch Accounting Supervisor; not over 35 years old

MARKETING OFFICERS (CODE: MO)
Graduate of any four-year business course; with at least 2 years experience in human relations or marketing related job; with good communication skills; ability to speak Chinese an advantage; not over 35 years old

NEW ACCOUNT TELLERS (CODE: NAT)
Graduate of any four-year business course; with good scholastic record and communication skills; female, not over 25 years old

ACCOUNTING CLERKS (CODE: AC)
Graduate of any four-year business course; with at least 12 units of Accounting; above average scholastic standing; not over 25 years old

TRAVELLING TELLERS (CODE: TRT)
Graduate of any four-year business course; with good scholastic record; male, not over 25 years old

FOR SUBSIDIARIES

BDO Financial Services Inc.

SERVICE OFFICERS (CODE: BDOFSI-SO)
Graduate of any four year course; at least 2 years experience in branch banking specifically in the area of cash operations and marketing; should possess basic knowledge of branch accounting; must be computer literate and proficient in PC spreadsheet, open office and word processing programs; must have good organizational and leadership skills; must be people and service oriented; willing to work in shifting schedule; female, not over 35 years old

SERVICE REPRESENTATIVES (CODE: BDOFSI -SR)
Graduate of any four-year business course; with good scholastic records and communication skills; willing to work in Quezon City, Pasay, and Taytay; not over 25 years old

JR. MARKETING ASSOCIATES (CODE: BDOFSI-MA)
Graduate of any four-year business related course preferably Marketing; fresh graduates with above average scholastic records are welcome to apply; willing to work in Manila; not over 25 years old

BDO Insurance Brokers Inc.

SENIOR MANAGER (CODE: BDOI-SM)
Graduate of any four-year business course; at least 5 year managerial experience in insurance covering the areas of marketing / sales, account servicing, collections, and administration; with excellent communication and interpersonal skills; not over 40 years old

ACCOUNTING CLERKS (CODE: BDOI-AC)
Graduate of BS Accountancy; with above average scholastic records; not over 25 years old

BDO Realty Inc.

ACCOUNT RECEIVABLE CLERK (CODE: BDOR-ARC)
Graduate of BS Accountancy, Finance or Banking; with good scholastic records and communication skills; not over 25 years old

DOCUMENTATION CLERK (CODE: BDOR-DC)
Graduate of BS Accountancy, Finance or Banking;with good scholastic records; at least 1 year experience in sales documentation gained from a realty firm; not over 25 years old

TAX MONITORING CLERK (CODE: BDOR-TMC)
Graduate of BS Accountancy, Finance or Banking ; with good scholastic records; at least 1 year experience in tax monitoring gained from a realty firm; not over 25 years old

BDO Securities Inc.

TRADER (CODE: BDOSI-TR)
Graduate of any four-year business course; at least 1 year experience as an equities trader / sales person; must be an SEC license holder; must have an extensive knowledge of market prices and competition; with good communication and interpersonal skills; computer-literate; not over 35 years old

PROCESSING OFFICER (CODE: BDOSI-PO)
Graduate of any four-year business course; at least 1 year experience with brokerage operations and has hands on experience on knowledge of the PCD System; with good communication and interpersonal skills; not over 35 years old

BDO Private Bank

OPERATIONS OFFICER (CODE: BDOPB-OJAM)
Graduate of a business course from a reputable university; preferably with banking background; must possess good oral and written communication skills; must be attentive to details, organized, with a sense of urgency and initiative; not over 35 years old

ACCOUNTING OFFICER (CODE: BDOPB-ACCTG)
Accounting graduate of a reputable university; preferably a CPA and with banking background; must possess good oral and communication skills; must have analytical skills, be attentive to details,organized, with a sense of urgency and initiative and have good analytical skills; not over 35 years old

Please send your resume indicating position
code and recent
2" x 2" photo and transcript of records to :
Human Resource Management
BANCO DE ORO
12 ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center,
Mandaluyong City
E-mail Address : hrmd@bdo.com.ph
Website: www.bdo.com.ph

For BDO Private Bank Applicants
Please send to:
Human Resource
BDO PRIVATE BANK INC.
27/F Ayala Triangle, Ayala Avenue, Makati City
E-mail Address : hr@pb.bdo.com.ph

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Australian Government
Austrade

VACANCY

SENIOR BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MANAGER/TEAM LEADER

The Australian Trade Commission (Austrade) is an agency of the Australian Government that helps Australian companies win international business for their products and services. Co-located in the Australian Embassy in Manila, it is part of a global network of 108 offices in 57 countries and is headed by a Senior Trade Commissioner.

Austrade Manila is seeking a Senior Business Development Manager to join our Manila team. This key role will involve developing business opportunities in the agribusiness & the food & beverage sectors and adopting a leadership role within the team.

You will be required to manage a number of customers in your portfolio of both Philippine and Australian based companies. The position will require the application of professional sales and marketing skills as well as the application of customer relationship management (CRM) principles so experience of this nature is desirable. A degree or higher education in this discipline will also be viewed favourably.

We offer an attractive remuneration package, a 5-day working week, solid commitment to personal development and a rewarding and pleasant environment in an international context. Annual salary ranges from Php917,000 to Php1,019,000. The position may require some travel, both domestic and international.

Please access our website (www.australia.com.ph) for more details about this vacancy and for a copy of the application form.

Only application forms emailed to the specified Austrade email address will be accepted. Mail or fax copies are not valid. Deadline for submission of application is c.o.b 24 September 2007.

Only shortlisted applicants will be contacted for interview.

FT.com
FINANCIAL TIMES

Financial Times Manila is looking to recruit a **Part-time Revise Sub-Editor** to work on FT.com, the Financial Times website.

The successful applicant will be an all-round journalist with at least 8 years experience as a production editor on newspapers, also preferably on magazines and working online. He/she must have a solid background editing and revising features, news and business stories. A sharp eye, great comprehension and grammar are essential. The ability to mix with the team and give feedback on their work is also important. This is a senior role, which could become a full-time position.

Qualified applicants should post their detailed resumé, cover letter and most recent photograph not later than Friday, September 21, 2007, to **The HR & Administration Manager** at the following address:

Financial Times Philippines
42nd Floor, Philamlife Tower,
8767 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City

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Qualifications:
Male or Female, 20-25 yrs. old, Single
Experience is not necessary, fresh graduate are very much welcome
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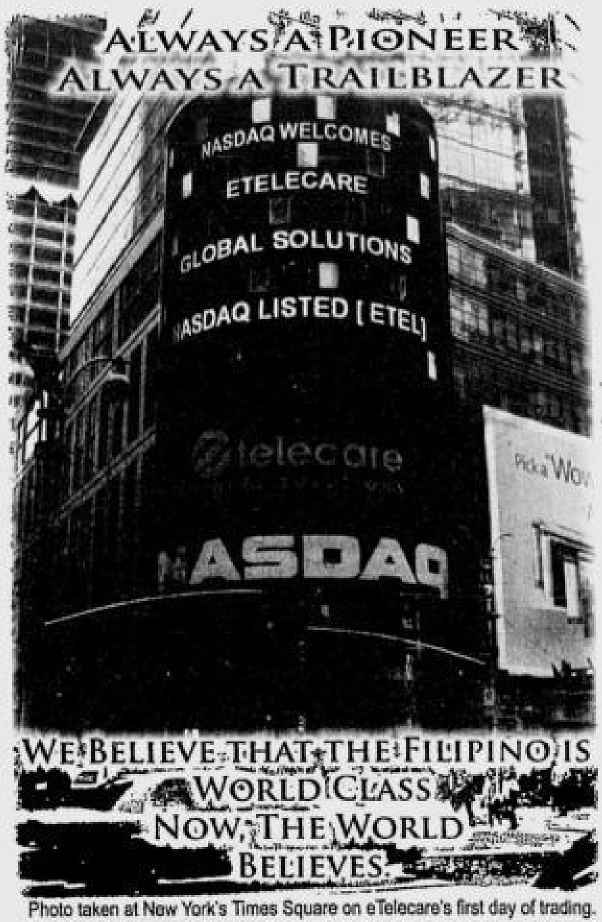

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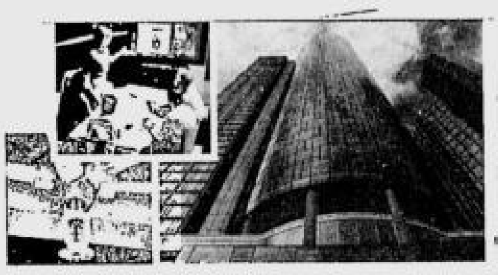

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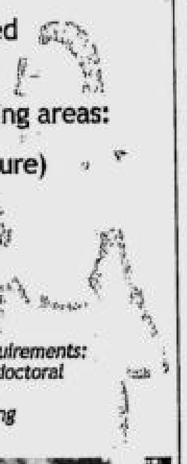

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Schools, employers in Region 2 map out HR plan

SCHOOLS AND EMPLOYERS, TOgether with other stakeholders in Region 2 (Cagayan Valley) consisting of the provinces of Batanes, Cagayan, Isabela, Nueva Viscaya, and Quirino, have mapped out for the first time a joint action plan outlining the strategies to be implemented to address the jobs and skills mismatch in the region.

Labor and Employment Secretary Arturo D. Brion, citing a report from Undersecretary Romeo Lagman, said the academe and industry leaders as well as the government and other social partners in Region 2 formulated the region's Human Resource Action Plan aimed at producing workers equipped with the right skills, that would address the jobs and skills mismatch hindering the region's productivity and competitiveness.

Brion commended the social partners, saying their regional HR plan is a milestone in the efforts to bring schools and employers together to chart a common path and harmonize programs that would help students and workers focus on courses and trainings that are needed by industry.

The Dole chief remarked that the Region 2 HR plan complemented the national policy and action agenda towards workforce productivity crafted during the National Human Resource Conference held last March to address the problems hindering the Filipino workers' productivity and global competitiveness.

He said the social partners signed a pledge of support and commitment to concretize the programs, projects, and activities outlined in the regional HR plan. Prior to this, the academe consulted with the other social partners in identifying in-demand jobs and priority sectors in Region 2.

Lagman, who witnessed the signing held in Tuguegarao City, said the priority sectors or key employment generators (KEGs) needing workers with appropriate skills in Region 2 are agriculture, agri-business, tourism, furniture, hotels and restaurants, construction, and mining.

He said the stakeholders in the region's HR plan agreed to conduct advocacy, provide scholarships to deserving students, include values formation in the curriculum, and institutionalize the ladderized education program to help students and workers meet the skills requirements of the priority sectors.

Lagman said that agri-business, such as aqua culture and livestock and vegetable production, would be needing more workers as the sector is envisioned to become a major driver of growth in Region 2. The mining industry in Nueva Viscaya, he added, is also growing and likewise in need of geologists and metallurgists.

Lagman also reported that the Dole Region 2 office entered into an agreement with the municipality of Penablanca, Cagayan represented by Mayor Marilyn Julia for the implementation of the Worktrep Program geared at helping micro entrepreneurs in the municipality develop their business into viable enterprises.

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Global OFW deployment to reach 1M, remittances to approach $14b in 2007

THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT (DOLE) said that the global deployment of overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) is expected to reach and breach the 1-million mark, while total OFW remittances are expected to approach the US$14 billion level by December this year.

Labor and Employment Secretary Arturo D. Brion said that as of mid-year 2007, OFW deployment had already breached the 0.5 million mark in more than 190 destinations worldwide.

He expressed confidence that at this growth rate, total deployment figures will reach if not surmount the one million level worldwide this year.

He said that based on the latest report of the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA), global OFW deployment had reached 725,999 as of August 31, 2007, representing more than two-thirds (72.6 percent) of the total 1-million global OFW deployment goal in 2007.

Brion earlier indicated that from January to July this year, the deployment of OFWs in the new hire category increased in several host destinations including Canada, Italy, Cyprus, New Zealand, and New Caledonia due to the demand for Filipino skilled workers in their industries.

He said the percentage of Filipino professional and technical workers went up by two percentage points to 14.4 percent in the first half of 2007 from 12.4 percent in the same period in 2006, with high end skills accounting for more than two-thirds (73 percent) of the total new hires.

Meanwhile, the rehires increased by 2.5 percent to 361,655 from Jan. 1 to Aug. 31, 2007, compared to 352,908 in the same period last year. In addition, the total contracts per worker processed by the POEA for overseas Filipino seafarers have expanded by 15.9 percent to 279,922 from 241,522 during the same period.

Overseas jobs fair promotes entrepreneurship

EVENTWORX COMPANY IN PARTNERSHIP WITH WorkAbroad.Ph, and Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall, supported by The Philippine Daily Inquirer presents OFW Jobs 2007: A Grand Recruitment and Livelihood Fair on Oct. 18-20 at the Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall.

Basically a Jobs and Livelihood Fair, the event brings together a mixture of overseas jobs and top business ideas, with the aim of pitching among first-timers and returning OFWs, the beauty of doing business locally while actively working abroad.

With licensed recruiters conducting on-the-spot interviews for thousands of skilled and non-skilled job vacancies abroad, qualified applicants, especially those with complete requirements are sure to get their dream jobs fast and easy.

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For more information, call EventWorx Company at telephone 746-2764, 0906-2457831, or send an email to info_eventworx@yahoo.com.

Buyer-seller meet in Manila

THE ENGINEERING EXPORT PROMOTION COUNCIL (EEPC), in cooperation with the Philippines-India Business Council (PIBC) of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) and the Embassy of India, organize a Buyer-Seller Meet on Sept. 19 from 9 A.M. - 5 P.M. at the Intercontinental Hotel, Makati City.

The EEPC delegation will be composed of twelve (12) leading Indian engineering manufacturers/suppliers of products such as automobile components, pipes, tubes and pipe fittings of iron and steel, castings and forgings, electric transformers, pumps and accessories, IC engines and parts, agricultural equipments/implements including tractors/components, food processing machinery, electrical household appliances, hand tools, fasteners, among others.

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For information on how to register, call Ms. Laarni Palaroan of the PCCI International and Trade Affairs at telephone numbers 890-4354 / 896-4549 local 125 or email laarni.palaroan@philippinechamber.com.

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Understanding the Issues in Contracting and Outsourcing	Sept. 19	ECOP Boardroom Makati City	ECOP Training & Devt Dept Tel. 8990411 loc 116 or fax 8958623 training@ecop.org.ph
Developing Your Supervisory Leadership	Sept. 19 1-5 p.m.	Holiday Inn Galleria Ortigas	Porter & Miles. Call Mercy at tel. 638-7719 / 20
Customer Relations Management & Marketing	Sept. 19-20	Astoria Plaza Ortigas	ARIVA! Seminar & Convention Organizers 8958058 / 8959527 /0917-3257870 www.Ariva.com.ph
Performance Based Salesmanship	Sept. 24-25	Astoria Plaza Ortigas	ARIVA! Seminar & Convention Organizers 8958058 / 8959527 /0917-3257870 www.Ariva.com.ph
Pollution Control Officers Training Course	Sept. 25-28	ECI Training Center Ortigas	ARIVA! Seminar & Convention Organizers 8958058 / 8959527 /0917-3257870 www.Ariva.com.ph
Implementing Rules and Reg. for RA 9480 or Tax Amnesty (DO 29-07)	Sept. 25 1:30-5:30 p.m.	Holiday Inn Galleria Ortigas	Powermax Consulting Group Call Leni at 687-9014 / 5748
Learning from the IR Structures and Standards of Japan	Sept. 26	ECOP Boardroom Makati City	ECOP Training & Devt Dept Tel. 8990411 loc 116 or fax 8958623 training@ecop.org.ph
Revisiting the Labor Mgmt Cooperation Scheme: What Works & What Does Not	Oct. 3	ECOP Boardroom Makati City	ECOP Training & Devt Dept Tel. 8990411 loc 116 or fax 8958623 training@ecop.org.ph
Labor Updates and RA9481: Strengthening Workers' Right to Self Organization-Boon or Bane?	Oct. 10	TBD (South/North Luzon)	ECOP Training & Devt Dept Tel. 8990411 loc 116 or fax 8958623 training@ecop.org.ph
Evaluation & Salary Structure Design	Oct. 11-12	Century Park Hotel	Magnitude Human Resource Devt. Tel. 0917-8909595 magnitudehrd@yahoo.com
Managing Organization-Based Conflict	Oct. 17	ECOP Boardroom Makati City	ECOP Training & Devt Dept Tel. 8990411 loc 116 or fax 8958623 training@ecop.org.ph
Management Training Program Essentials for Organizational Development	Oct. 23-25	Dusit Hotel Nikko Makati City	ECOP Training & Devt Dept Tel. 8990411 loc 116 or fax 8958623 training@ecop.org.ph
Graphics and Publishing Seminar	Oct. 24-26	AIM Acced Conf. Cent Makati City	James Tornea tel. 632-8960639 / fiera@info.com.ph
Labor Updates and RA9481: Strengthening Workers' Right to Self Organization-Boon or Bane?	Oct. 31	TBD (Visayas)	ECOP Training & Devt Dept Tel. 8990411 loc 116 or fax 8958623 training@ecop.org.ph

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AXA Philippines, Global Expert in Life Insurance and Investments, supports the 44th PMAP Annual Conference to be held in Cebu City from Sept. 26-28. Present during the contract signing are from left: PMAP Ways and Means Chairperson Lina Aseneta, PMAP President Mark Go, AXA Philippines President and CEO Andrew Alcid, AXA Philippines CFO Indren Naidoo, and AXA Philippines Alternative Channels Head Anthony Perez. AXA Philippines is a joint venture between the Global AXA Group and the Metrobank Group.

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PMAP PARTNERS WITH SMART IN DELIVERING RESULTS

Photo shown are PMAP Treasurer Julie M. Miteria, PMAP President Mark O. Go, FPM, Smart Group Head-HRMDG Ann Margaret Santiago, and PMAP Ways and Means Committee Chairperson Lina A. Aseneta, FPM during the signing of memorandum of agreement with Smart Communications, Inc, and People Management Association of the Philippines (PMAP) on Aug. 2 as one of the major sponsors of the 44th Annual Conference scheduled on Sept. 26-28 at the Waterfront Hotel, Lahug, Cebu City.

Dr. Spong speaks on PMAP confab

THE 44TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE PEOPLE Management Association of the Philippines (PMAP) promises to be a host to various experts and gurus in the field of people management, with two-time Malcolm Baldrige Award Winner Dr. David E. Spong leading the noted guests with his keynote.

With Spong's expertise in the field of people practices and results, the 44th PMAP Annual Conference will certainly be a venue for advanced and practical learning that will benefit its delegates and the company they represent.

Dr. David E. Spong, is the current chair of the Malcolm Baldrige Award Foundation, and is the only recipient of the renowned award two times for different organizations and sectors.

Developing supervisory leadership skills

THE PRODUCTIVE OR ANEMIC PERFORMANCE of your people and your business depends largely on your supervisors. If they can effectively guide, control and motivate the people, the desired result will be achieved. Empower and equip your Supervisors on Sept. 19, 1–5 p.m. at Holiday Inn Galleria Manila, Ortigas.

This seminar is sponsored by Porter and Miles, Inc., a premier training company on business, management, marketing, sales and human resource development, with office address at Suite 2502-C Tektite Tower East, Ortigas Center. Call Mercy at 638-7719 / 20 for registration / more information. Limited seats only.

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Tax amnesty seminar set

FINALLY, A SEMINAR ON DOF DEPARTMENT Order 29-07, the Implementing Rules and Regulations for RA 9480 or Tax Amnesty, will be held. This special workshop will reveal top secrets on sure-fire ways to save money without undermining integrity. Don't miss this very important event slated on Sept. 25, 1:30 – 5:30 at Holiday Inn Galleria Manila, Ortigas. The seminar will have as its resource lecturer Prof. Emy Maestro, CPA; Founder of Tax Accountant Society, the National Organization of BIR Accredited Tax Agents; Founding Chairman of Auditor ng Bayan; and author of 14 books on Accounting and Auditing. This seminar is sponsored by Powermax Consulting Group. Call Leni at 687-9014 / 5748 for more information / reservation. Hurry! Call us now while there are still seats available.

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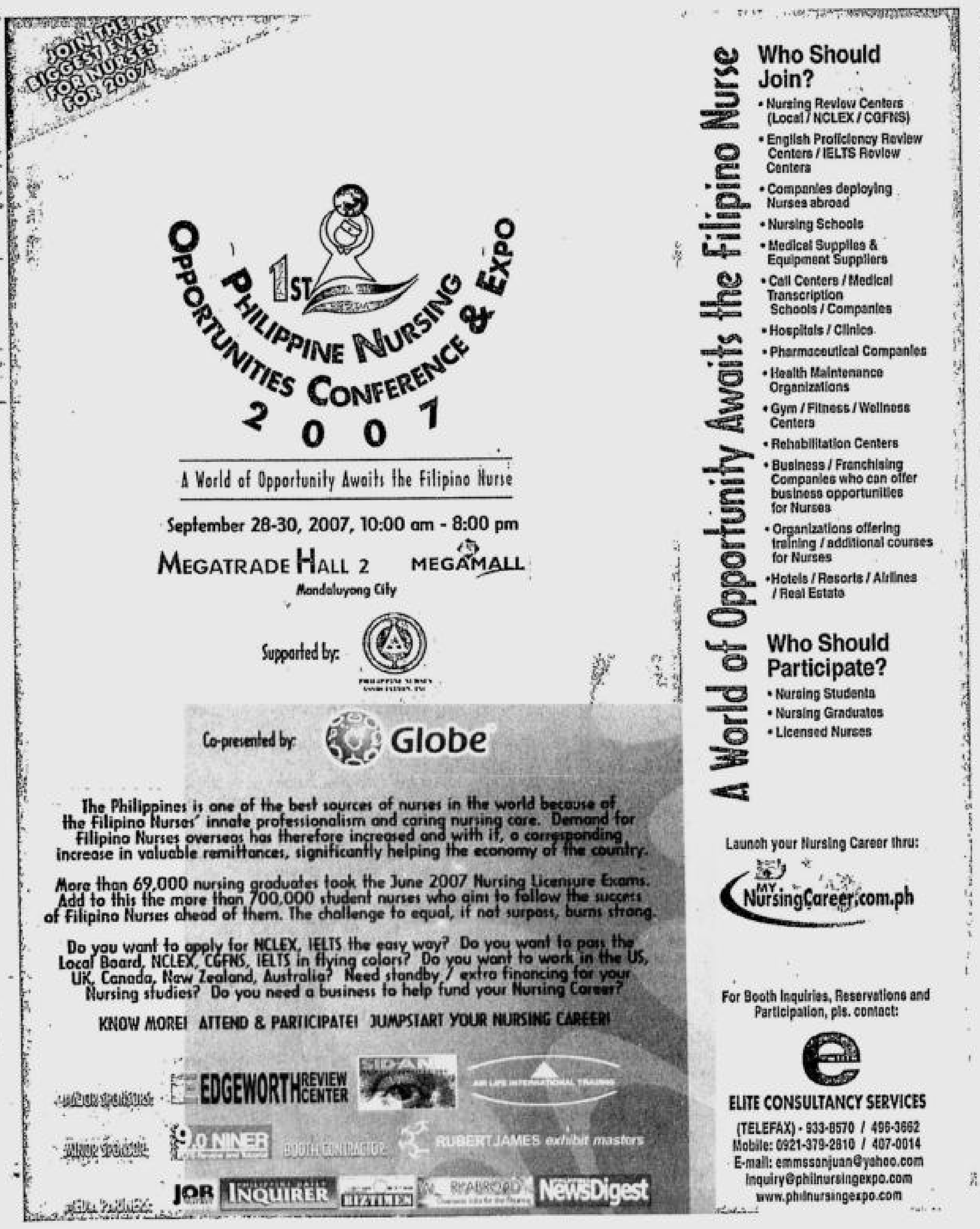
Its office is located at 2/F Cityland Building,128 Pioneer St., Mandaluyong City, Metro Manila with telephone numbers 634-7570 to 71, fax no. 634-7569, and e-mail truth@mozcom.com. You may also visit their website at www.truthverifier.com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Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

You might need a career exit strategy

By Ma. Esther Salcedo-Posadas
Contributor

IF YOU'RE YOUNG AND HAPPILY employed, the present moment would be a good time to consider how you would like your life to turn out, maybe 10 to 30 years down the road.

If you are currently in between jobs, it is also a good idea to look into your plans, not only in the world of work, but in your whole life as well.

If you are intent on retiring early or at least want to be assured of a nest egg in your old age, it is imperative that you plan for those years where you may not be as productive as you are now.

In Robert Kiyosaki's book "Retire Young Retire Rich," he clearly explained what kind of income to look out for. "In my quest to retire young and retire rich, I had to know which type of money to work hard for. Kim and I were able to retire early because our plan had us working hard for passive income and not earned income, which is what most people do.

Portfolio income

Another difference is that we planned on retiring with more passive income and not portfolio income, which is what most people plan to retire on."

Passive income essentially refers to earnings that continue to pour in long after you have stopped working for them. Such is the reason Robert Kiyosaki highly recommended this strategy. This could include earnings from your network marketing business, if you have one. You can also get passive income from royalties that you earn from books and other creative output. Kiyosaki's book explains the concept in full detail.

Plan early

To develop a good exit strategy, plan early. Aside from the money aspect, it is also important that you take the time to understand what it is you should be doing with your life. Many people retire with the illusion of perfect happiness only to find out that after a few months they are bored to tears.

Remember that work is a gift. Retirement doesn't mean that you do nothing or that you simply do as you please. Your retirement years can be an opportunity to pursue worthwhile work or an unfinished task that perhaps requires less physical effort.

Just as a pretty ribbon ties up a beautifully wrapped gift, your retirement should lead you to a more meaningful existence, all possible with the proper life-career outlook and preparation.

(Send feedback to http://www.joyposadas.blogspot.com)

'Am I not entitled to a few bad habits?'

ASK YOUR CAREER COUNSELOR

Ernie O. Cecilia

I READ YOUR COLUMN LAST Sept. 2 about someone who has lost control of his life because he can't prioritize things he had to do. I have also lost control of my life because of a few addictions.

I was raised by parents who barely made both ends meet. My mother was very particular with our appearances and made me look my best always. I constantly topped my class and graduated high school with top honors.

After college, I married my husband who, like me, has a stable job.

I can't remember which started first—the tension between us or my overspending and other vices. I am fascinated by pretty things and shop incessantly whenever I could.

I would buy the finer things for the kids, the kitchen, the living room and myself. My husband and I would bicker almost everyday about my spending habits.

I make token payments for my credit cards, borrow from one to pay another, learned to smoke to cope with stress and mastered juggling my credit cards, loans and pay. I became desperate that I asked my boss for a cash advance, but he expected something in return—and it was not money. My performance and relationships are a mess both at home and at work.

All I wanted was the best for me and my family. I am a well-meaning person and I think I deserve to have at least a few bad habits. Can you help me get over my situation?

Repentant Spoiled Brat

You are not alone in your problem. The little bad habits you now have are like a merry-go-round that eagerly waited for you to jump on board. The colorful horses, nay beasts, seemed to beckon to everyone, "Climb on me ... climb to the land of permanent bliss!"

Like all rides, the merry-go-round starts slowly and gives comfort, often greater than we would expect, thinking it would take us somewhere where we will feel better. Then, we realize that we simply go round and round, faster and faster, but go nowhere. We might switch from horse to horse, but we don't feel better. The pace quickens and our stomach sickens.

Habits

The little bad habits you have acquired were likely precipitated by certain factors that date back before you even met your husband. The factors trigger old feelings of helplessness, desires, wants and even pain. These feelings in turn lead you to self-defeating cycles of overspending, smoking and "debting."

Someone said that first we form habits—then habits form us. Let us be careful of the habits we form. Addiction to cigarettes usually starts with one stick. Truly, one stick can't do much harm. One default in your credit card payment can't be that bad. An opportunity for "advances" from the boss might not totally ruin your career. But, if you put all these together, they can lead you to a vicious cycle like a merry-go-round that never stops.

Heed Samuel Johnson's admonition, "The chains of habit are generally too small to be felt until they are too strong to be broken."

Overhaul

To get off that merry-go-round, you must undergo a thorough "psychological overhaul." Your problem is not about money. Even if you need money to solve your little addictions, money is not the real solution. Money doesn't even solve money problems.

Since your problem is serious, I will mince no words and be straightforward. What happened to you, and to countless other readers of this column, did not happen by chance. It was caused by how you feel about yourself, what you want, and the decisions you made at every point in your life. It is not true that you have no control of your life. You are not a helpless pawn in life's drama that unfolds everyday. You are the lead actor, and you must be aware of it. Nothing happens to you unless you cause it.

You now feel helpless against the credit card companies running after you, or powerless against your boss who demands something in exchange for his favors that could temporarily get you out of trouble. You—not your doting mother, not your uncaring husband, not your helpless children—caused all the compulsive living you now experience. Of course, the picture of life in the compulsive lane is bleak and gruesome. In fact, when the little bad habits get out of control, they can lead to one's self-destruction. Only you can get yourself out of this rut.

You can't go back and start a perfect beginning without your little addictions, but you can move on and have a happy ending in your life and career.

Prognosis

I don't want to sound clinical about this, but here is how I look at your problem:

- Your compulsive living has roots in your childhood, initially used by your mother to nurture you and your siblings, and make you feel loved.
- You wanted to replicate with your kids what your mother did to you, so that you could be proud parents.
- The lifestyle you have chosen is beyond your means as of now, hence the tendency to overspend and acquire little addictions to cope with the stress that goes with the chosen lifestyle.
- The stress in you and the tension between you and your husband all combine to choke your normal growth and your capacity to experience life more fully.
- Whenever you want to change, you struggle against your own resistance because you want to perpetuate the status quo—the results of your little addictions tend to give you some relief, comfort and happiness.
- What complicate matters are society's confusing demands and pressures—your boss' advances, complications at work, perhaps keeping up with the Joneses, etc..

What I am really saying is that first, you need to deal with your problem in its entirety. It is not just about the credit card bills you have to pay. It starts with your concept of life, love for your children, your image of yourself, the underlying compulsive conditions that gave rise to your little addictions, and a whole lot of things to sort out in your mind.

Conclusion

If you are in debt, borrowing to pay your debt is not the answer. If you are addicted to cigarettes, another stick or pack is not the answer. If you've become an inveterate, incorrigible "shopper," shopping is not the answer. If you continue to do all these, you will realize that it is a frustrating rut that leads you nowhere near the solution of your addictions. If you continue to fill your personal needs as you see them now, the emotional price and financial toll can be very devastating.

Can you heal yourself? Perhaps, yes. But, it helps if you get professional help. As you heal yourself, you can rethink of what your purpose in life should be. Focus on the long-term goals that will bring you real happiness and fulfillment. Achieve short-term goals that will lead you, perhaps one step at a time, towards your long-term goals and your purpose in life.

But first, you must get off the compulsive merry-go-round you got yourself into. Say to yourself boldly, "Stop the world, I want to get off." Then, just get off.

I know you can, especially if you believe what William Jennings Bryan said, "Destiny is not a matter of chance, it is a matter of choice. It is not a thing to be waited for – it is a thing to be achieved."

(The author is chair Chair of IR Committee of the American Chamber of Commerce and Chair of ECOP's Long Range Policy Planning Committee. He is the President and CEO of EC Business Solutions and Career Center, a human resource consulting firm. Feedback at ernie_cecilia@yahoo.com)

Luke 15: 1-10

In just the same way, I tell you, there will be rejoicing among the angel of God over one sinner who repents."

Be Jesus-like

By Bishop Precioso D. Cantillas, SDB, DD

THERE ARE SOME PEOPLE WHO WOULD REJOICE OVER THE FAULTS, failures or downfall of others. When someone, for example, trips on the road or fumbles on his way, some would easily laugh at or jeer at him. A few, perhaps, would hasten to give a helping hand, or simply give a compassionate and understanding look. Similarly, in the workplace, some workers would just be too quick at pounding on the mistakes of some, and would perhaps blow the matter up until it jeopardizes the employment of those who have failed. Such condemning attitude and negative behavior abound in the workplace, which makes the work environment sometimes hateful, instead of being welcoming like that of a home.

Jesus' message of compassion and love, if heeded and lived by workers, could certainly transform the work environment from a place people would avoid to one where people would be attracted to. It could promote a caring and forgiving attitude in everyone in the workplace which could in turn provide a strong motivation for workers to do their best in their jobs in spite of occasional failures and mistakes. It could foster an atmosphere of joy, serenity and friendliness in the workplace rather than allow fear, boredom, cutthroat competition, and other depressing and emotionally draining feelings to prevail. The kind and compassionate behavior of people in the workplace could be the concrete expressions of God's loving mercy for us.

When the workplace is totally imbued by the spirit of Jesus, everybody would have reason to rejoice; perhaps, there would even be "rejoicing among the angels of God" over a workplace that has turned heaven-like, with everyone striving to be Jesus-like. *(E-mail the author at mfvg@skyinet.net)*

REFLECTIONS FOR THE WORKING SOUL

Following the leader

By Teresa T. Tunay, OCDS

YOU MAY BE FORTUNATE IN HAVING A NICE JOB, A GOOD SALARY, lots of opportunities for getting ahead, and even the esteem of the public. But those who do ordinary jobs, receive a small pay for hard work and are not seen as anyone important in the community, can only hope for the presence of humane coworkers to make their work life more bearable or worthwhile.

Indeed, these "little workers" can endure a great deal of deprivations for as long as they have coworkers who respect them as persons, who regard them with good old "pakikipag-kapwa-tao." The "one sinner who repents" mentioned in today's Gospel is a rarity in today's problematic workplaces where people are so clever as to evade responsibility for wrongdoing. And these are the people who add to the suffering of the "little workers." A manager, for example, can be a "sinner" when he abuses his position and power to exploit employees, and an "unrepentant sinner" when he does it without compunction, regret or any intention of changing his ways. The same is true for a president and owner of the company who has over the years been a virtual slave driver who thinks he can never be wrong and therefore has become a real burden for the "little workers" who have no choice but to remain in his company.

These two workplaces where the dignity of workers is trampled upon by "unrepentant sinners" will always be beleaguered by problems—unless their leaders change their ways. Once they repent, they will be transformed, and because they are leaders, the whole company will follow suit. Then it's time for rejoicing. *(E-mail the author at teresa_de_manila@yahoo.com)*

Study shows workers avoid working hard because of the Internet

JERUSALEM—IF YOU ARE AT work, chances are you are probably doing it right now.

Walk into any large office, and you will most likely hear the telltale computer bleeps of chat programs and online games, accompanied by furious mouse-clicking. Employees may seem busy, but many are wasting time on the Internet, or "cyberslacking." Studies worldwide suggest employees spend about a fifth of their work shifts engaging in personal activities. Their favorite time waster? The Internet.

Patricia Wallace, author of the 2004 book "The Internet in the Workplace: How New Technology Is Transforming Work," said employees have always found ways to avoid working too hard.

"The issue is now you have something that seems to be genuinely irresistible because it's such a gateway to the whole planet that's right there on your desk and easily concealed to people passing by," said Wallace, a professor at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore.

Employees who cyberslack have been shown to spend most of their time e-mailing, and almost a third of their messages were not related to work, said James Philips, a psychology professor at Australia's Monash University.

Many workers manage finances or shop online. Popular social networking sites such as Facebook and MySpace are also common cyberslacking destinations. It is not uncommon to see a user write on his "status" report that he or she is "at work." Some companies, which spend millions on Web access, have fired workers for cyberslacking, citing concerns about inappropriate activities. But hiding it has become easier—people can access the Internet through cell phones, for instance.

Films and television shows have been focusing on the phenomenon.

Time-wasting at work was spoofed in the 1999 cult film "Office Space," while "The Office," a British TV comedy that now has a US version, has shown characters playing a computer war game as part of what they described as a team-building exercise.

Walter Block, a professor of economics at Loyola University in New Orleans, pointed to similarities between employees who slacked off before the computer age and those who waste time in cyberspace.

"I think they do it for the same reason they did it before—some people, because they're cheating their boss, other people, because it helps them work," Block said.

Office-dedicated websites have been popping up. Workers can go to www.overheardintheoffice.com to post and rate humorous quotes overheard at their workplaces. They can rant about office colleagues and bosses at www.annoyingcoworker.com—and e-mail them anonymous messages through the website.

"Ugh! You eat like a pig!" one person wrote. "Stop smacking your lips and licking your fingers and snorting while you eat chips two feet away from me! It's like feeding time at the zoo!"

A recent survey by online compensation firm Salary.com showed about 6 out of 10 employees in the United States acknowledged wasting time at work.

About 34 percent listed personal Internet use as the leading time-wasting activity in the workplace. Employees said they did so because they were bored, worked too many hours, were underpaid or were unchallenged at work.

Firms all over the world are concerned about potentially harmful effects of surfing they deem to be inappropriate may have on their company's image. Many firms use computer software to monitor web activity and block certain sites or servers.

Almost a fifth of those surveyed in a 2006 Israeli-American poll said they accessed online sex sites at work.

US-based electronics firm IBM once fired an employee for visiting an adult chat room at work. Last year, a New York City employee was sacked by Mayor Michael Bloomberg for having a card game on his computer screen.

Some experts say private Internet use at work does not affect productivity and could even be beneficial.

"The so-called cyberslacking could be online shopping or arranging for your dog-sitter online or taking care of banking so you don't have to take a two-hour lunch," Wallace said. "In cases like that, you're actually helping employees save time."

Reuters

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Accounting Assistant

Responsibilities

The position performs accounting functions such as (i) examining, verifying, and ensuring validity, completeness, accuracy, correctness in the recording period, and sufficiency of supporting documentation for payment vouchers and/or other journal vouchers in accordance with ADB's Administrative Orders, Administrative Circulars, established guidelines and procedures; (ii) ensuring proper coding, journal entries, and other inputs of data in the relevant accounting and financial database; (iii) compiling standard and/or ad hoc accounting, financial and statistical data for management reporting; (iv) checking and verifying assigned reports, ensuring completeness and accuracy of all entries/calculations and consistency with updated records, and initiating necessary action to correct any discrepancies, omissions or errors; (v) assisting in the preparation of data to facilitate the processing of quarterly and year-end accruals and coordinating with other departments/offices on the relevant matters; (vi) reconciling assigned accounts monthly or as required and investigating discrepancies or erroneous inputs; (vii) assisting in the review of the systems for improvement; (viii) addressing routine employee and vendor queries on accounting transactions as assigned by the supervisor(s); and (ix) maintaining/updating relevant records, documents and files, and performing various administrative tasks.

Reporting Arrangement

The position reports to the Director, the designated Professional Staff and/or National Officer.

Selection Criteria

Specific criteria include: (i) suitability to undertake the responsibilities mentioned above at the required level; (ii) Bachelor's degree in Business Administration major in Accounting; a Certified Public Accountant qualification; (iii) at least 3 years of accounting experience in computerized accounting systems such as Oracle applications, SAP, etc. in a large organization; (iv) detailed understanding of the relevant procedures and guidelines and their importance in the overall function of the work area; (v) ability to understand issues of risks and controls in the financial and accounting process, system, and policies, procedures, guidelines and reporting requirements in the work area; (vi) proficiency in MS Excel, MS Word, and MS Powerpoint, and large accounting related software (preferably Oracle), and in the use of computer databases to input and extract information and to generate standard and ad hoc reports; and (vii) excellent oral and written skills in English.

For more details about the position, please see www.adb.org/Employment/Local/

The Asian Development Bank's vision is a region free of poverty. Established in 1966 and headquartered in Manila, Philippines, ADB's multicultural staff come from over 50 member countries. ADB's Headquarters in Manila generally recruits its administrative staff locally from the Philippines. The position is for a three-year fixed-term appointment. ADB offers a highly competitive salary and benefits package applicable to local staff. While the position advertised is for ADB Headquarters in Manila, Philippines, ADB staff must be prepared to serve in any location outside its Headquarters at the discretion of Management.

Apply electronically, quoting Ref. No. EXT-AS07-087(4)-CTAC-AP/SC and job title on subject line and attaching application form available on www adb.org/Employment/appform.asp to e-mail address: LS-jobs@adb.org by 1 October 2007.

Due to the expected large number of applications, only shortlisted candidates will be contacted. Applications lacking the job reference number and job title or using the wrong e-mail address will not be considered.

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The ORN must be submitted to IPAMS upon personal application, together with the resume, educational and employment credentials, and two 2x2 photographs before 17th October 2007.

Alternatively, candidates from remote areas can also log on to www.ipams.com and input their ORN in the application form.

Suitable candidates will be shortlisted and contacted to meet with us for the selection process in Manila.

5th National Association for Appreciative Inquiry "Growing Seeds of Possibilities" Conference

> *Appreciative Inquiry is based on a reverence for life and is essentially biocentric in character. It is an inquiry process that tries to apprehend the factors that give life to a living system and seeks to articulate those possibilities that can lead to a better future. More than a method or technique, the appreciative mode of inquiry is a means of living with, being with, and directly participating in the life of human systems in a way that compels one to inquire into the deeper life-generating essentials and potentials of organizational existence.*
>
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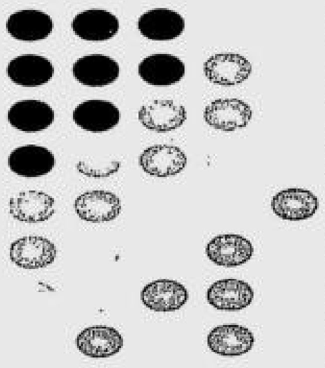

PROGRAM

7.30 a.m	Registration Commences
8:30 a.m.	Opening Ceremonies
9.00 a.m.	'Growing Seeds of Micro Enterprise Initiatives' Dr. Jaime Aristotle B. Alip
9:30 a.m.	Open Forum
10:00 am	Workshop: Growth Possibilities for Small Initiatives @ the Grassroots
1:30 pm	Business Meeting on AAI
2:00 pm	'Growing the Seeds for Enterprise Bottom-line Dr. Conchita L. Manabat
2:30 pm	Open Forum
3:00 pm	Workshop: Entry Possibilities for Appreciative Practice to Increase the Bottom-line
3:30 pm	Reports of Small Groups

Dr. Jaime Aristotle B. Alip

- Founder/President— CARD-MRI
- President, RIMANSI Organization of the Phils.
- Member, Advisory Board, IDEAS
- Director, CASHPOR
- Awarded "Most Distinguished Alumnus of University of the Philippines
- Awarded 'The Social Entrepreneur of the Year 2006.
- Awarded 'Excellence in Community Economic

Dr. Conchita L. Manabat

- Member, Board of Directors, Fujitsu Phils. Inc
- Trustee, University of San Carlos
- Member, Consultative Advisory Group of the International Auditing & Assurance Standards Board (CAG of the IAASB) of the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC)
- President, Development Center for Finance (joint undertaking between the UP College of Business Administration & FINEX Foundation
- Former Chair & Founder, C.L. Manabat & Co.
- Former Managing Partner, C.L. Manabat & Co
- Former Chair, Capital Market Development Council

October 19, 2007
8:00 am to 4:00 pm
Sky Lounge,
The Linden Suites
#37 San Miguel Ave.
Ortigas Center.

For questions about Appreciative Inquiry and the Conference, you may call any of the following:

- *Rose Fuentes @ 4266359*
- *Ylan Cortez @ 6673987*
- *Virgie Castillo @ 6387337*
- *Reju Mandlayan @ 7297759*

Investment:
P3,000.00 (for non-AAI members)
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Please get in touch with Cynthia E. Cruz
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The successful candidate will be responsible for dispatching and scheduling of Truck Units, coordinating with DLMS (Domestic Logistics Management Services team) regarding availability of gate pass and other deliveries, preparing bills for clients, liaising with customers on calltime of trips, required units and other requirements, preparing cash vouchers for transport related transactions, liaising with truck lessee regarding relation truck schedule and documentation and assisting F&A with account receivables.

To be qualified, an applicant must be a graduate of Engineering, Business Studies/Administration/ Management, Economics, Finance/Accountancy/Banking, and Land Transport or equivalent. He/ She must have 1-4 year work experience in Freight/Shipping/Logistics or equivalent. He/She must also be familiar with the major roads in Luzon especially Metro Manila. He/She must be computer literate and should have excellent oral and written communication skills. Applicants must be willing to work in Malate,Manila.

CUSTOMER SERVICE ASSISTANT (CODE: CSA-LOG)

The successful candidate will handle group accounts for import and export brokerage, coordinate with consignee, carriers and freight forwarders.

To be qualified, an applicant must be a graduate of a business or science course with a minimum of 2 years work experience in a logistics or supply chain management. He/She must have excellent oral and written communication skills. He/She must be proficient in MS Office.

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The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), an active development partner of the Philippine Government, is now seeking the services of a dynamic and competent staff with a high degree of initiative to fill the position of:

PROGRAM ASSISTANT

The staff will be working with Japanese and Filipino counterparts and shall be responsible for administrative, logistic and technical support, as well as, coordinating with government offices or related agencies in the implementation of programs.

JICA Staff must be prepared to be assigned to any section at the discretion of Management.

Qualifications:

- Male / Female, 22-30 years old
- Graduate of a four-year university course
- With at least two (2) years working experience in the development field
- Excellent oral and written communication skills
- Proficient in basic computer applications (Excel, Word, Powerpoint &/or Filemaker)
- Good interpersonal skills, adaptable and willing to learn
- Strong analytical skills

The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) is a government agency responsible for implementing the technical cooperation programs of Japan's Official Development Assistance (ODA). For more information, refer to JICA's homepage: **http://www.jica.go.jp/philippine/index.html**.

The recruitment will be handled by the Takezawa Technology Transfer & Industrial Consultancy, Inc. (TTT-ICI). All applicants must submit their Curriculum Vitae including two work-related references **on or before September 21, 2007** to TTT-ICI at Unit-K 3rd Floor, Westgate Tower, Investment Drive, Madrigal Business Park, Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa City or e-mail to **tttici@pldtdsl.net**.

(Only short-listed applicants will be notified.)

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Account Executive - Liner (code: AE-Liner)

The successful candidate will have the responsibility in running various campaigns and implementing marketing programs as directed by the Sales and Marketing Manager to ensure that both business plans and individual targets are achieved. The candidate must ensure coverage of assigned accounts within area of accountability as well as continually develop and maintain favorable relationship with existing and new customers. He/She will prepare sales proposals and set-up meeting with exporters/importers and will have to present progress reports to customers and counterparts at every stage of the negotiations. He/She will coordinate with Customer Service, Operations and Finance team on the delivery of service.

To be qualified, an applicant must be 20-25 years old and a graduate of a 4 or 5 year course preferably from a reputable school. He/She must have excellent oral and written communication skills and above average analytical skills. He/She must be knowledgeable in MS Office. Driving skills is a must. Fresh graduates are encouraged to apply.

Customer Service Assistant (code: CSA-Liner)

The successful candidate must enjoy negotiating with customers. He/She will be responsible for managing customer expectations and expanding the customer base.

To qualify, an applicant must be a graduate of a reputable college or university, must be computer literate and must have excellent oral and written communication skills. The process and detail oriented candidate must be a passionate believer of quality and customer satisfaction. Experience in a related field is an advantage.

Programmer (code: PG)

The successful candidate will do systems development and system extractions for in-house applications. He/She will also investigate, debug and support in-house application systems. Furthermore, the successful candidate will do application support procedures and weekend cutovers.

To be qualified, the candidate must have a bachelor's degree in any of the following courses: Computer Science, Computer Engineering, Computer Application or Math. He/She must be knowledgeable in Object-oriented programming concepts and must have above-average academic standing with good oral and written communication skills. Knowledge in any of the following is a must: SQL (Sybase, Oracle or SQL Server), Gemstone, Visual Works for Smalltalk, JAVA, C#, XML, Unix Scripting, JSP and Active Server Pages (ASP). He/She must be willing to work after office hours when an application support procedure is needed. He/She must also be willing to participate with the team in doing weekend cutovers.

TECHNICAL ENGINEER (Code: TE)

The successful candidate will be responsible for setting up all necessary hardware and software for new and upgraded servers and PC. He/She will coordinate with Hong Kong counterparts and vendors on requirements, installation procedures and budgeting. He/She will also be responsible for remote access setup and implementation (RAS, DSL), software management, installation, upgrade and license tracking, renovation, expansion of data and voice network and maintain company telephone system.

To be qualified, the candidate must be a graduate of Computer Engineering, Electrical Engineering or Computer Science. He/She must be knowledgeable in Unix (HP or Sun Solaris), Windows 2000 XP, Windows 2003 Server, PABX, Networking protocols (TC/IP, netbeui), as well as network topology and infrastructure (routers, switches, cabling). He/She must have excellent oral & written communication skills. Background in IPT/IPCC will be an advantage.

EASC Head (EASC - Head)

The successful candidate will manage Shift Leaders, and Representatives/Associates to support the Enterprise Applications for the frontline regions/offices. He/She will act in line with the strategy & direction defined by BPS/S Head, and to work in collaboration with BPS/S team based in Hong Kong, and with other support teams. He/She will ensure recommended solution can best suit the changing business requirements by detailed analysis of the business request. He/She will implement Enterprise Applications across global offices, monitor implementation, to ensure successful rollout. He/She will ensure resources and tasks are well managed to provide effective and efficient IT solution to each business request.

To be qualified, the candidate must be a graduate of a 4 or 5 year course (preferably Engineering, IT courses, Business Mgt, Logistics). Post-graduate degree is an advantage. He/She must have 3 -5 years work experience in a shipping / logistics environment. He/She must possess strong leadership, team building and problem solving skills. He/She should be highly analytical and should be very fluent in spoken and written English (proficiency in other languages will definitely be an advantage). He/She should be able to work under pressure.

EASC Shift Leader (EASC - Shift Leader)

The successful candidate will lead a team of Representatives/Associates to support the Enterprise Applications for the frontline regions/offices. He/She will assist and deputize (if needed) EASC Head, to prepare the duty roster for the respective shifts and arrange shift duties for all team members. He/She will ensure that recommended solution can best suit the changing business requirements by detailed analysis of the business request. He/She will also ensure resources and tasks are well managed to provide effective and efficient IT solution to each business request. He/She will implement Enterprise Applications across global offices, monitor implementation, to ensure successful rollout.

To be qualified, the candidate must be a Graduate of a 4 or 5 year course (preferably Engineering, IT courses, Business Mgt, Logistics). He/She must have 3 -5 years work experience in a shipping / logistics environment. He/She must possess strong leadership, team building and problem solving skills. He/She should be highly analytical and should be very fluent in spoken and written English (proficiency in other languages will definitely be an advantage). He/She should be able to work under pressure. MUST be willing to go on shifting.

EASC Representative / Associate (EASC - Rep/Assoc)

The successful candidate will provide the 1st Level Support on the Enterprise Applications to the regions by filtering out the usage issues from the system-related issues. He/She will work with the various support teams to locate the root cause of technical issues and to ensure the solution is thoroughly tested prior cutover to production. He/She will assist to implement Enterprise Applications across global offices, monitor implementation, and to ensure successful rollout. He/She will likewise monitor the effectiveness of the implementation & usage of the enterprise applications, and to identify areas of improvements in the business processes. He/ She will need to attend duties for 3 shifts on a rotational basis, per accordance to the duty roster prepared by the EASC Head & Shift Leaders.

To be qualified, the candidate must be a Graduate of a 4 or 5 year course (preferably Engineering, IT courses, Business Mgt, Logistics). He/She must have 1 - 3 years work experience in a shipping / logistics environment. He/She must be highly analytical and w/strong problem solving skills. He/She should be fluent in spoken and written English (proficiency in other languages will definitely be an advantage). He/She should be able to work under pressure. MUST be willing to go on shifting

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1650 San Marcelino corner Malvar Sts., Malate, Manila

Attention: Cheers Adora

E-mail address:
cherry.marie.adora@oocl.com
jennifer.lachica@oocl.com

2,275 workers get P3.6 M in back wages, other benefits

ABOUT 2,275 WORKERS received a total of P3.6 million in back wages and other monetary benefits due them following a lightning or blitzkrieg style in the inspection of establishments began by the Department of Labor and Employment (Dole) in July this year.

Citing a report from the Bureau of Working Conditions (BWC), Labor and Employment Secretary Arturo D. Brion said the initial beneficiaries of the Dole's Inspection Blitz project covered 2,079 workers who received a total of P2.7 million in restitutions carried out at the plant level.

The rest of the beneficiaries, Brion said, received a total of P909,263 upon the settlement of labor standards cases filed with the Dole.

The Dole chief said the beneficiaries of the Inspection Blitz were workers of establishments found violating core labor standards. The project is part of the Labor Standards Enforcement Framework (LSEF) which engages a team of Dole inspectors to visit all establishments in a particular area in a blitzkrieg style before moving to other areas.

The campaign runs until 2009 beginning with the first phase from July 2 to November 30, 2007. The second and third phases would be in 2008 and 2009.

The scope of inspection covers core labor standards such as the minimum wage, ECOLA, 13th month pay, holiday pay, service incentive leave: and SSS, Pag-Ibig, Phil-Health, and contractualization.

Brion said the project ensures greater efficiency and speed in the inspection of establishments, and immediate correction of violations and compliance to the minimum wage and other core workplace standards.

A total of 2,690 establishments which included 251 security agencies, 139 manpower agencies, and 10 subcontractors, have been visited by 170 Dole inspectors in July. Workers covered totaled 72,804 of which 65% were males and 35% were females.

Brion said that out of the total number of establishments visited, 915 were found violating core labor standards including 587 firms with minimum wage violations.

Some 250 firms also violated the SSS law while 375 and another 225 were remiss in their Pag-ibig and Philihealth obligations, respectively.

He said that the Dole immediately ordered corrections of violations either at the plant level or through the settlement of labor standards cases filed with the Dole regional offices.

The BWC report showed that Region 10 (Northern Mindanao) had the highest number of violating firms with 192 followed by Region 8 (Eastern Visayas) with 99, Region 4-A (Calabarzon) and Region 11 (Davao Region) with 84 each, and Region 9 (Western Mindanao) with 81.

AKO NAMAN SI SUPER KALABAW!

E-mail: ji@inquirer.com.ph

Junior Inquirer

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2007 ✦ 8 PAGES ✦ VOLUME 10, NUMBER 77

WHAT'S INSIDE:

Congratulations to the ten lucky winners of our "Who's that dog?" contest!

Page 2

A race for Super kids

By Ruth L. Navarra

SOME OF THE BEST THINGS ABOUT being a kid are chasing friends when they tease you, swimming in the wide open sea, and riding alongside your parents on a nice, sunny day.

Those things seem ordinary, but not every child gets to do them. Some are born differently abled; some have to fight for the very air they breathe.

Just like Gabriel Rene Cayetano Sebastian. Gabriel was born with a cleft lip and palate. He had a hole in his heart, enlarged kidneys, and was perceived to be deaf and perhaps blind. He had an illness called trisomy. In 2001, he died at the age of nine months.

Having a cleft lip and palate means that the mouth or lips didn't form properly while the baby was still inside his mother's tummy.

Gabriel's mom, Senator Pia Cayetano, honors his memory by empowering kids who can run, swim and ride a bike, to help other kids who are differently abled.

As part of the Gabriel Symphony Foundation's fifth annual 12-hour multi-sport event for a cause, thirty-eight kids joined the Maxitoylab Super Kids Triathlon on Sept. 8. They were asked to pay registration fees to help fund the cleft-lip-and-palate operations for infants at the Philippine General Hospital, Malvar General Hospital and the V. Luna Veterans Hospital.

"This yearly activity is our way of celebrating how my son's short life continues to bring new hope to differently abled children. It's really inspiring to know that Gabriel continues to live on through the many young lives he has touched," says Senator Pia.

The Super Kids triathlon was divided into different age categories. The winners who emerged were Bambam Manglicmot (under 7 years old), Molly Potter (7-8), Kai Kristial Stroem (9-10), Erik Stroem (11-12) and Seamez Belleu (13-15).

"The event was fun because I won and because it's also good to know that the registration fee would help kids who are blind and with cleft-lip and palate," says Luis Antonio Barangan, 10, the second placer in his age category.

Even if you missed joining the triathlon, you can show your support to differently abled kids by not teasing them about their condition, and not treating them differently from the rest of your friends.

To know how you and your parents can help, visit www.gabrielsymphony.com

Think Out Loud!

What do you worry about?

Other kids who pick on my sisters and me. They shout at us and borrow our toys but don't share theirs. —**Karissa Shin-Beth San Mateo**, 9, Makati

My older brother. He likes picking on me because of my size.—**Carlo Gabriel Bautista**, 7, Makati City

I'm worried that I might not be able to buy the yoyo gift that I promised my friend because I don't have money. —**John Joseph Luis Vite**, 10, Makati

I'm worried about my grades.I need to learn how to sew for my home economics class and I'm not very good with a needle and thread.—**Kyle Corpus**, 11, Makati

I'm worried that I might not be able have enough time for studies because I live very far from my school.—**Sheila Mae De Sagun**, 12, Cainta, Rizal

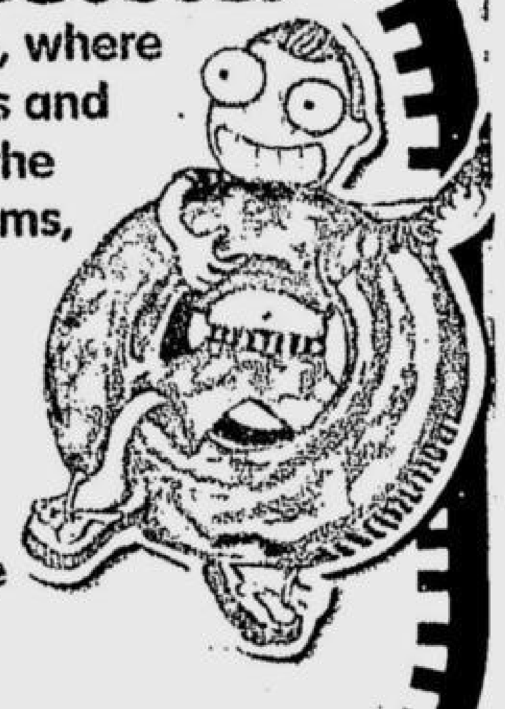
I'm constantly worried about keeping my grades high so it will be good enough for Philippine Science High School. —**Michaela Lou Flores**, 11, Makati

Guyito's Corral

WELCOME TO MY CORRAL!

This is your own special space, where you can express your thoughts and feelings bout anything under the sun in the form of essays, poems, letters and even illustrations!

Send all contributions to ji@inquirer.com.ph. Don't forget to indicate your full name, age and the city where you live. We'll be waiting!



Letters

HI JI!

I'm really happy whenever I see an issue of Junior Inquirer as part of our newspaper.

I started to love JI when I was still in elementary. Even though I'm in high school already, I still love reading it.

Whenever it's Sunday, I'm excited to read the comics and the stories, essays, and poems made by kids like me.

It's totally cool how you guys show things from other countries, and from right here in our country —things I don't know about.

Hope JI will continue, because it's an all-time favorite of so many kids.

—Angela Merma Ponce-Tan
12 years old
Alabang, Muntinlupa City

It's really cool to hear from readers who have enjoyed JI for years! Please call Ate Dianne Villafuerte at 897-8808 local 340, we have a gift for you.
—JI Staff

Junior INQUIRER

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2005 [illegible] Children's Newspaper Awardee Hall of Fame

Want to get to know other JI readers like you? Want to write to our [illegible]? Or do you simply want to be the first to know about JI promos? [illegible] our yahoogroup! Just send a blank e-mail to [illegible]readers-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

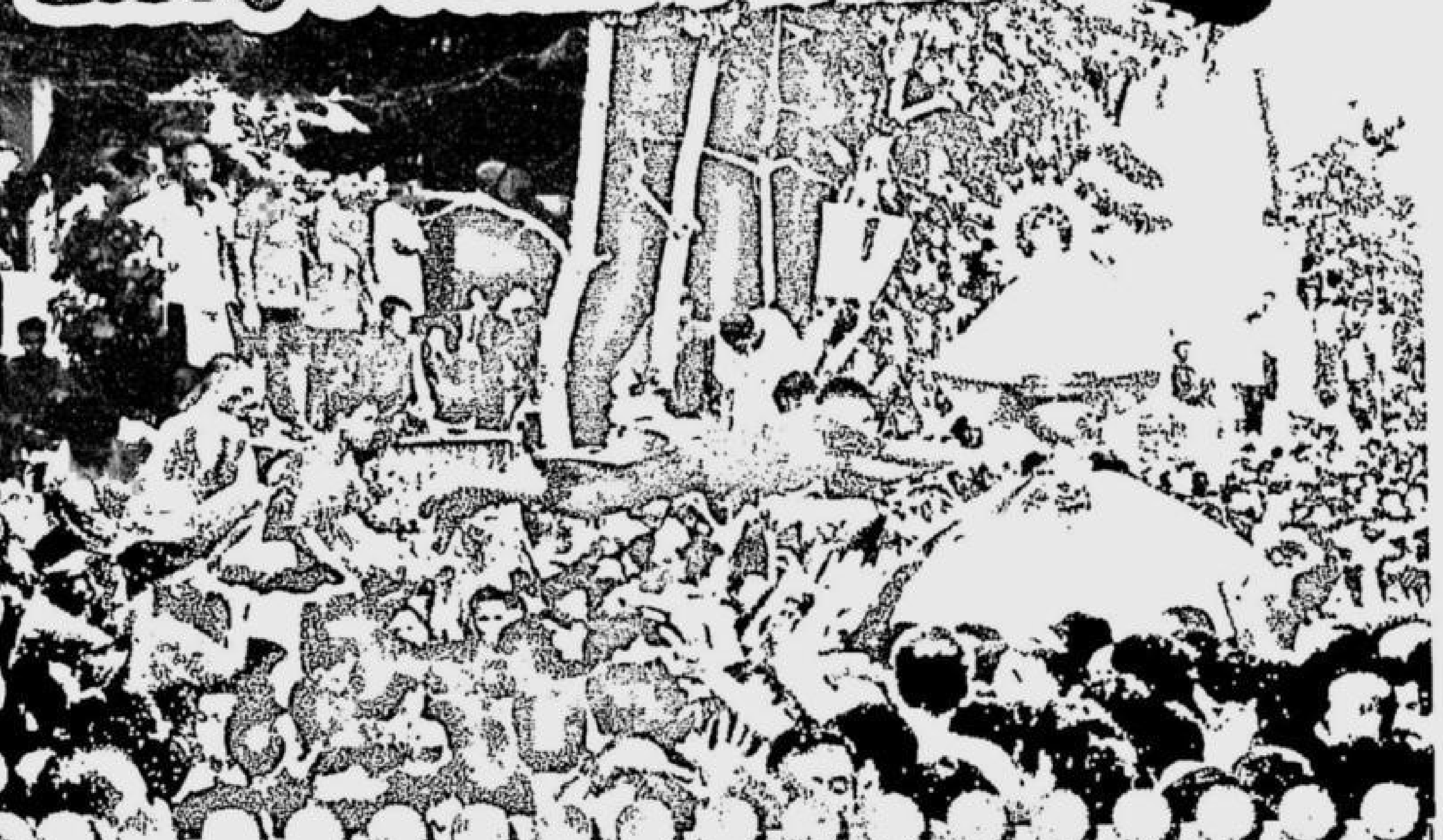
WassUp World?

Manila, PHILIPPINES

Fruitful delivery

SIX tons of mangosteen, lanzones and other fruits arrive from Jolo as part of the government livelihood program "Fruits of Hope". A Red Cross initiative, the program aims to boost livelihood in Mindanao's conflict-affected areas by selling their crops in Metro Manila supermarkets. **Jess Yuson**

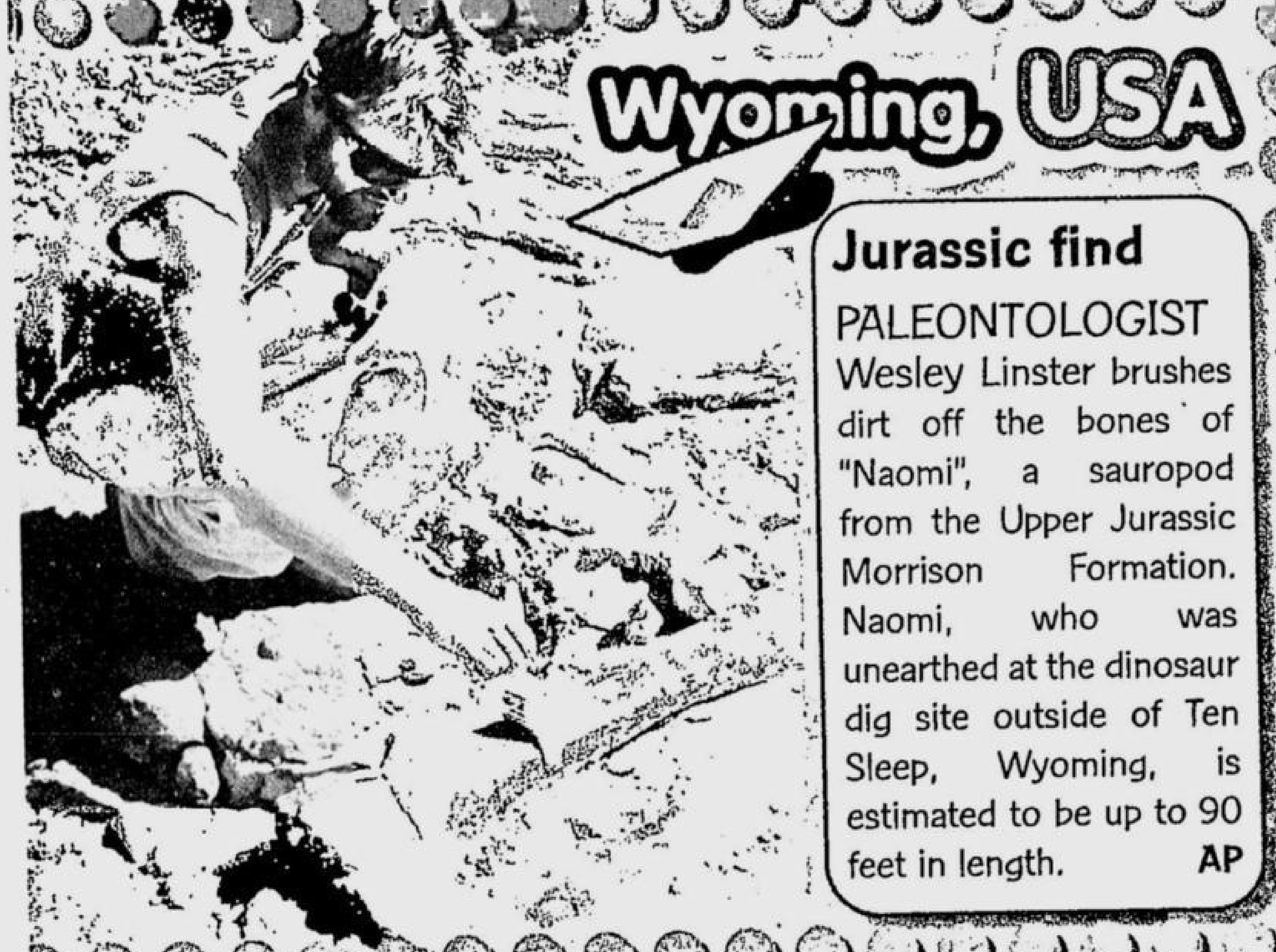
Bicol, PHILIPPINES



Devotees in Bicol

THOUSANDS of devotees bring the image of Our Lady of Peñafrancia from the Basilica Minore to the Naga Metropolitan Cathedral. The image will be brought back to the Basilica in a fluvial procession along the historic Naga River in Naga City, Camarines Sur. **Niño Jesus Orbeta/Inquirer Southern Luzon**

Wyoming, USA



Jurassic find

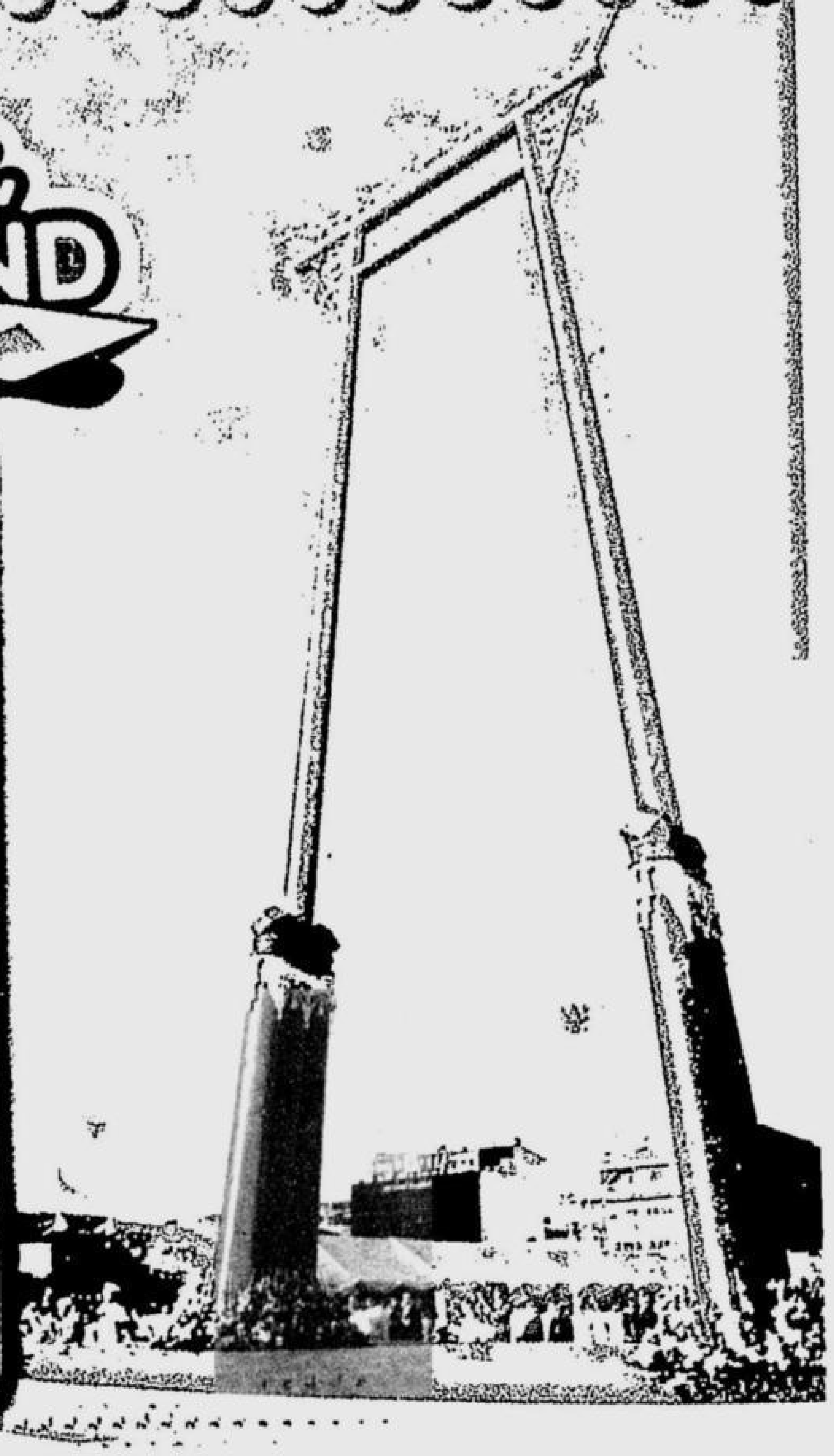
PALEONTOLOGIST Wesley Linster brushes dirt off the bones of "Naomi", a sauropod from the Upper Jurassic Morrison Formation. Naomi, who was unearthed at the dinosaur dig site outside of Ten Sleep, Wyoming, is estimated to be up to 90 feet in length. **AP**

Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA

Welcoming the millennium

THE ETHIOPIANS celebrate the arrival of the third millennium, more than seven years after it was celebrated in the west. They follow the Julian calendar, which puts the birth of Christ seven and a half years later than the more commonly followed Gregorian calendar. **AFP**

Bangkok, THAILAND



Super swing

THIS Giant Swing, measuring 21 meters (69 feet), was repaired using six-century-old teak trees. Thailand's revered King Bhumibol Adulyadej made a rare public appearance to preside over the celebration of the 223-year-old landmark's renovation. It was done as part of celebrations to mark the King's 80th birthday in December. **Reuters**

Who's that dog?

CONGRATULATIONS

to our ten lucky readers! You got it right, the newest superhero to hit the big screen is a lemon beagle! Our winners will each get an "Underdog" puzzle and soft frisbee.

Gabby Segovia, 9, Cainta, Rizal
Katreen Kyle Hernandez, 9, Laguna
Sven John Bajaro, 10, Laguna
Zulaika Rivera, 14, Makati City
Noelle Morris, 9, Makati City
Marinela Atienza, 12, Las Piñas
Denice Chavez, 11, Iloilo
Beatrice Frances Lingad, 7, Makati
Maylee Arsad, 12, Taguig
Kim Velasco, 10, Pasig

Underdog
Underdog

Please call Ate Dianne at 897-8808 local 340 to find out how you can claim your prize. All prizes must be claimed on or before Sept. 28, 2007.

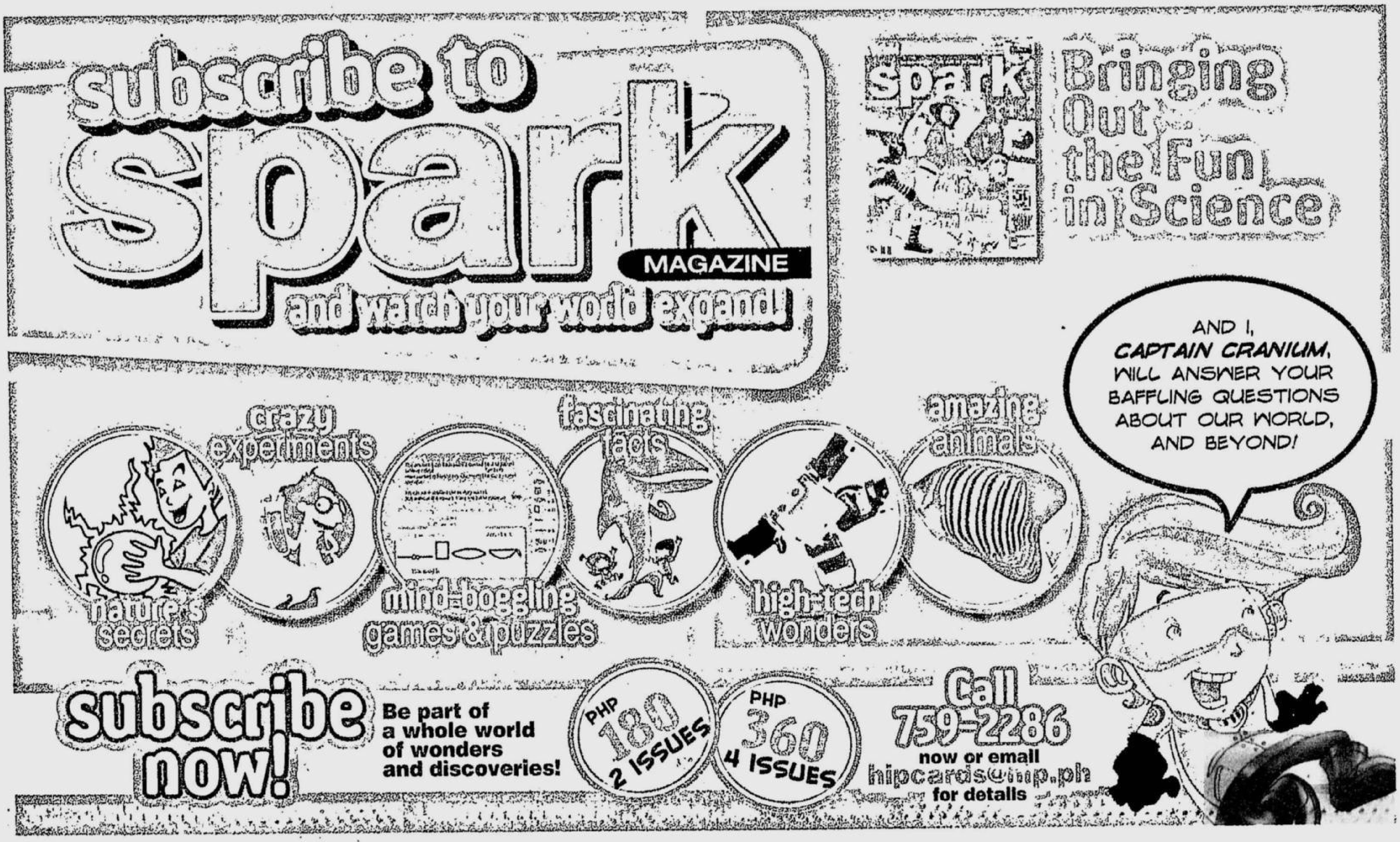
Out There

CARTOON NETWORK AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE 2007. Cartoon Network is calling on talented young people aged 10-16 years old from Metro Manila to join Cartoon Network Awards of Excellence 2007. Now with new categories—Singing, Dancing and the Wild Card—CNAE 2007 is open to individuals as well as groups of up to 10 members! There will be an open audition on Sept. 22, Saturday at Center Stage, SM Mall of Asia, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tune in to Cartoon Network or visit www.cartoonnetwork.com.ph or tune in to Cartoon Network for more details.

* * *

SEE BEAUTY BEYOND BREED. The Philippine Animal Welfare Society hopes to uplift the image of native dogs with its See Beauty Beyond Breed Campaign (SBBB). Our "asong Pinoys" or "aspins" deserve the same amount of appreciation and love that we give purebred dogs. SBBB campaign posters and a video can now be seen in various Penshoppe stores and MRT stations. SBBB donation cans are also available to allow more people to support the animal shelter. For more information please contact PAWS at 475-1688.

see BEAUTY beyond BREED



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By Pebbles Caganda
10 years old
Alabang, Muntinlupa

JI SNOOPS REPORT

LETTERS TO GOD

HAVE YOU EVER WRITTEN A LETTER to God? Or asked him questions that the grownups around you can't answer?

Well, you are not alone! Other kids just like you and me have wondered if God is really invisible, whether giraffes were really meant to look like that, or if it's okay to wear a devil's costume on Halloween. And their letters have been compiled in a book called "Children's Letters to God" by Stuart Hample and Eric Marshall.

Intrigued? Well, you can either look for a copy of the book, or watch it onstage. Yup, this interesting set of letters from children to God is now a musical!

"Children's Letters to God: The Musical" is about five kids named Joanna, Iris, Brett, Theo, and Kicker. They each have different personalities, and go through different trials in life. Iris' turtle dies, Joanna has a crush on Brett, Brett's parents are getting divorced, Theo is considered a geek, and Kicker, well... let's just say he's an annoying brother. Soon, one by one, they start questioning God about life. They ask questions like: why can't I see You, God?

The songs in the musical are fantastic, they're all about things we kids often think about: daydreaming, fighting, even the rain! It was also enjoyable to hear the actors read letters to God out loud.

But what I liked most were Kicker's scenes. He's so funny, he's really like an annoying brother! It was also interesting for me to see Aria Clemente, a television personality, play the part of Iris. Eleven-year-old Aria was a finalist in ABS-CBN's "Little Big Superstar" singing tilt, and was Over-all Grand Champion of the World (Junior Division) at the World Championships of Performing Arts.

I found out from their website, www.childrensletterstogod.com.ph, that the show has been translated to several languages and staged in places like Madrid, Seoul, Mexico, and many more. I'm glad it found its way to Manila too!

Tentative dates for the staging of "Children's Letters to God: The Musical" are Oct. 5-7, 12-14 at Insular Life Auditorium, Alabang and Oct. 19-21 at the Carlos P. Romulo Auditorium, RCBC Plaza.

RAGNAROK

BY LEVEL-UP GAMES

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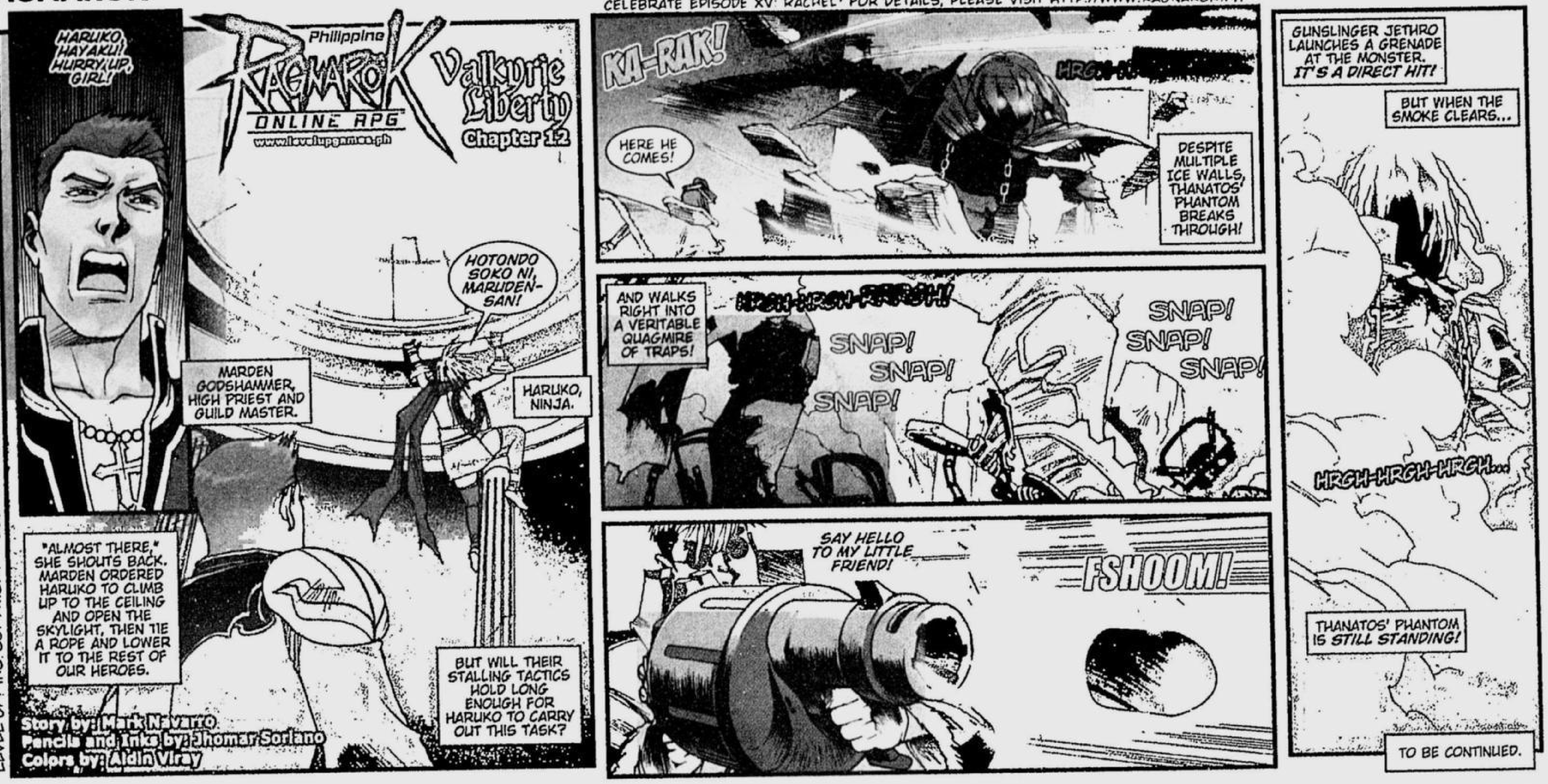
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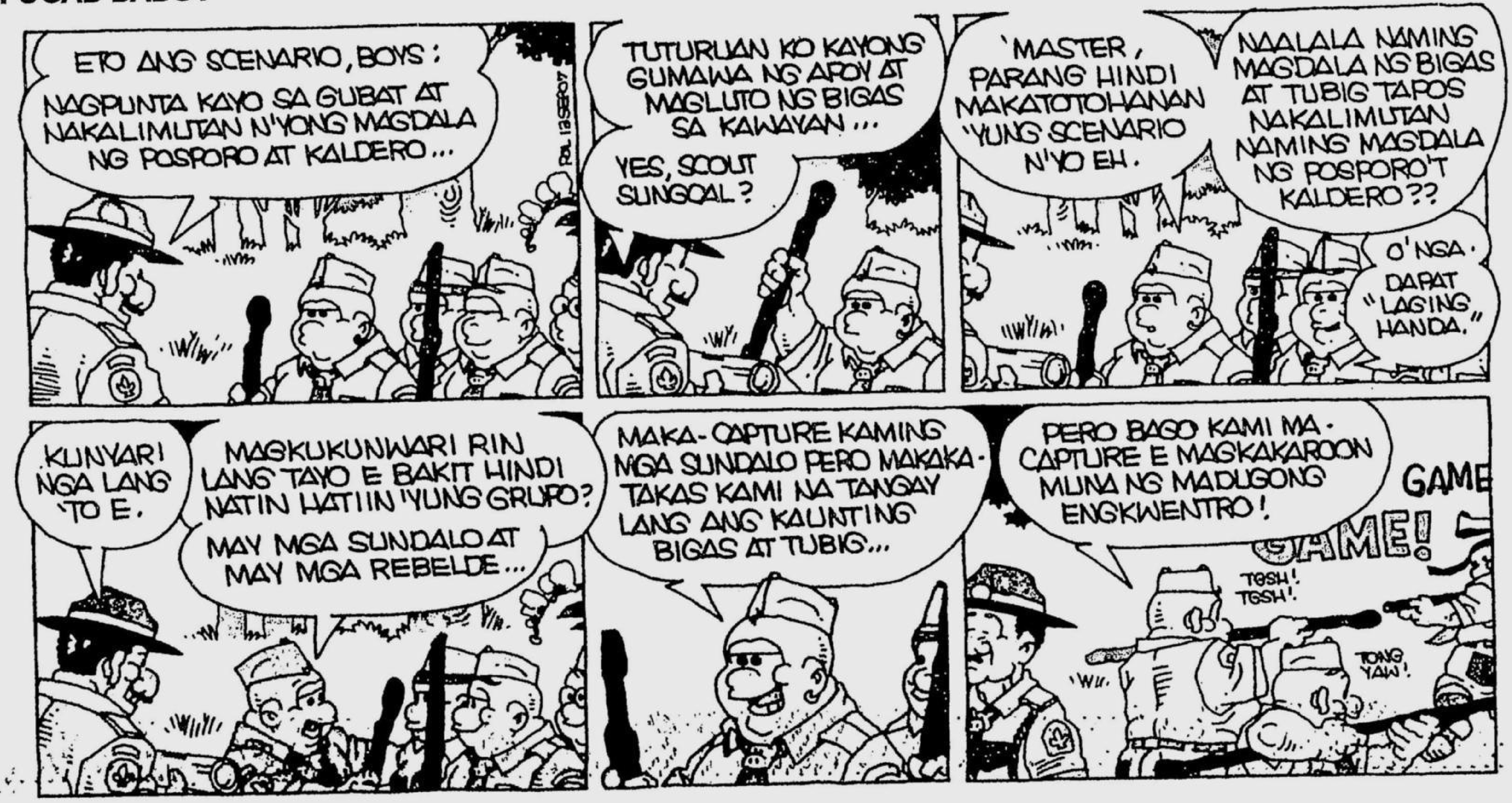
HARUKO, HAYAKU! HURRY UP, GIRL!
HOTONDO SOKO NI, MARUDEN-SAN!
MARDEN GODSHAMMER, HIGH PRIEST AND GUILD MASTER.
HARUKO, NINJA.
"ALMOST THERE," SHE SHOUTS BACK. MARDEN ORDERED HARUKO TO CLIMB UP TO THE CEILING AND OPEN THE SKYLIGHT, THEN TIE A ROPE AND LOWER IT TO THE REST OF OUR HEROES.
BUT WILL THEIR STALLING TACTICS HOLD LONG ENOUGH FOR HARUKO TO CARRY OUT THIS TASK?
Story by: Mark Navarro
Pencils and Inks by: Jhomar Soriano
Colors by: Aldin Viray
KA-RAK!
HRGH-
HERE HE COMES!
DESPITE MULTIPLE ICE WALLS, THANATOS' PHANTOM BREAKS THROUGH!
AND WALKS RIGHT INTO A VERITABLE QUAGMIRE OF TRAPS!
HRGH-HRGH-RRRGH!
SNAP! SNAP! SNAP!
SNAP! SNAP! SNAP!
SAY HELLO TO MY LITTLE FRIEND!
FSHOOM!
GUNSLINGER JETHRO LAUNCHES A GRENADE AT THE MONSTER. IT'S A DIRECT HIT!
BUT WHEN THE SMOKE CLEARS...
HRGH-HRGH-HRGH...
THANATOS' PHANTOM IS STILL STANDING!
TO BE CONTINUED.

PUGAD BABOY

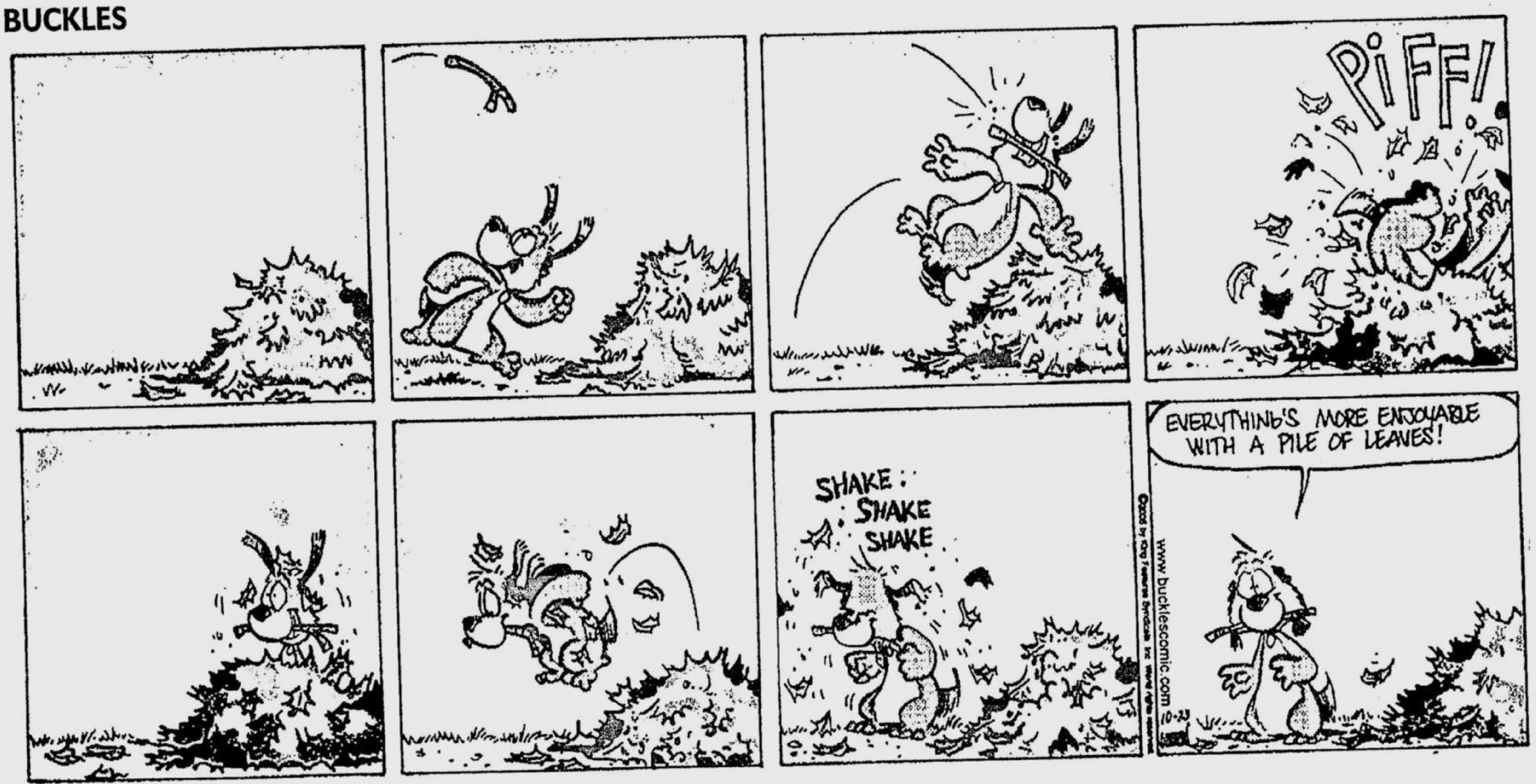
BY POL MEDINA JR.


ETO ANG SCENARIO, BOYS:
NAGPUNTA KAYO SA GUBAT AT NAKALIMUTAN N'YONG MAGDALA NG POSPORO AT KALDERO...
POL 13SEP07
TUTURUAN KO KAYONG GUMAWA NG APOY AT MAGLUTO NG BIGAS SA KAWAYAN...
YES, SCOUT SUNGCAL?
'MASTER, PARANG HINDI MAKATOTOHANAN 'YUNG SCENARIO N'YO EH.
NAALALA NAMING MAGDALA NG BIGAS AT TUBIG TAPOS NAKALIMUTAN NAMING MAGDALA NG POSPORO'T KALDERO??
O'NGA. DAPAT "LAGING HANDA."
KUNYARI NGA LANG 'TO E.
MAGKUKUNWARI RIN LANG TAYO E BAKIT HINDI NATIN HATIIN 'YUNG GRUPO?
MAY MGA SUNDALO AT MAY MGA REBELDE...
MAKA-CAPTURE KAMING MGA SUNDALO PERO MAKAKA-TAKAS KAMI NA TANGAY LANG ANG KAUNTING BIGAS AT TUBIG...
PERO BAGO KAMI MA-CAPTURE E MAGKAKAROON MUNA NG MADUGONG ENGKWENTRO!
GAME GAME!
TGSH! TGSH!
TONG YAW!

SUNDAY,
SEPTEMBER 16, 2007
INQUIRER COMICS Sunday

BUCKLES

BY DAVID GILBERT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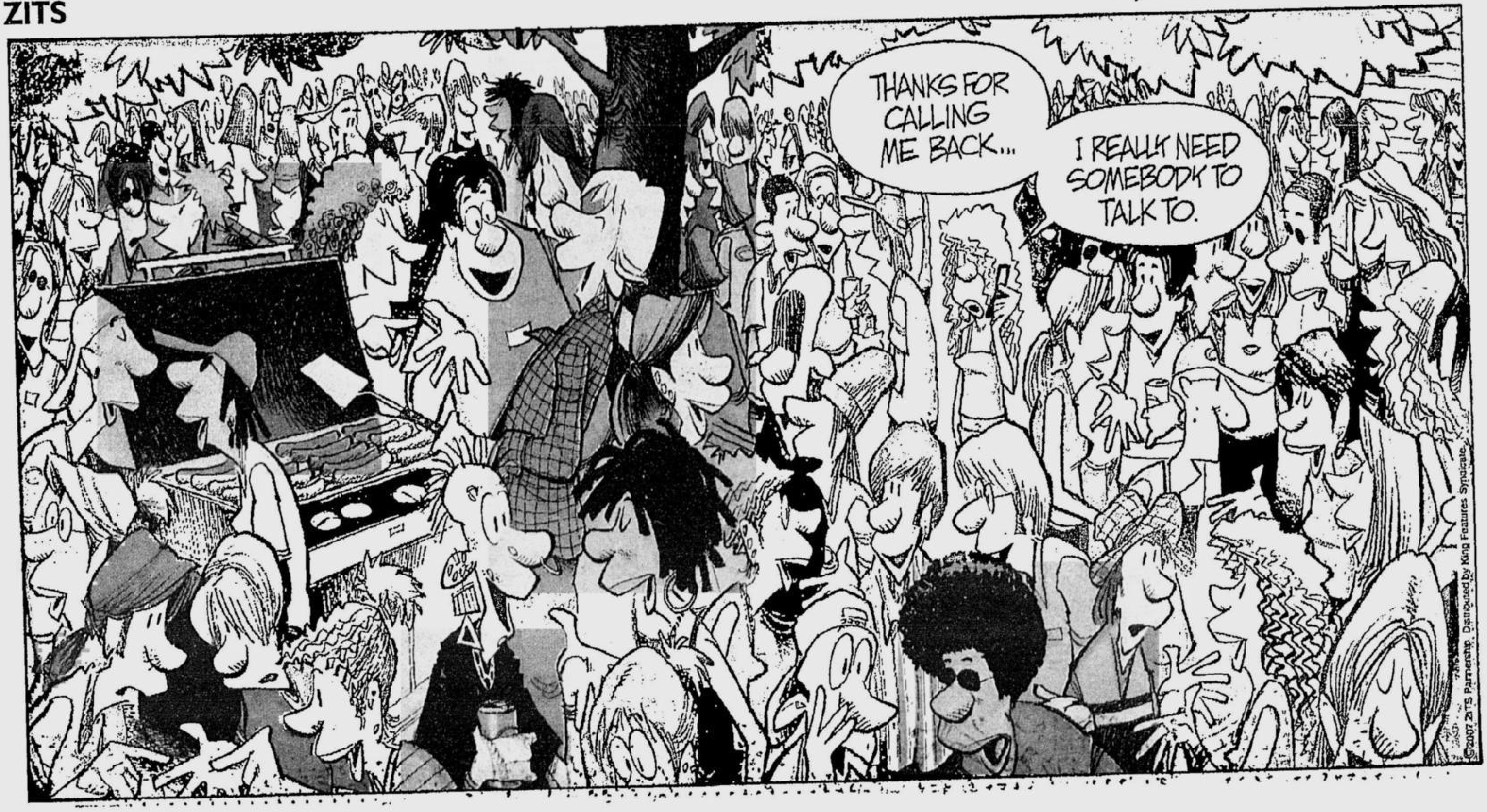
EVERYTHING'S MORE ENJOYABLE WITH A PILE OF LEAVES!

ZITS

BY JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN


THANKS FOR CALLING ME BACK...
I REALLY NEED SOMEBODY TO TALK TO.
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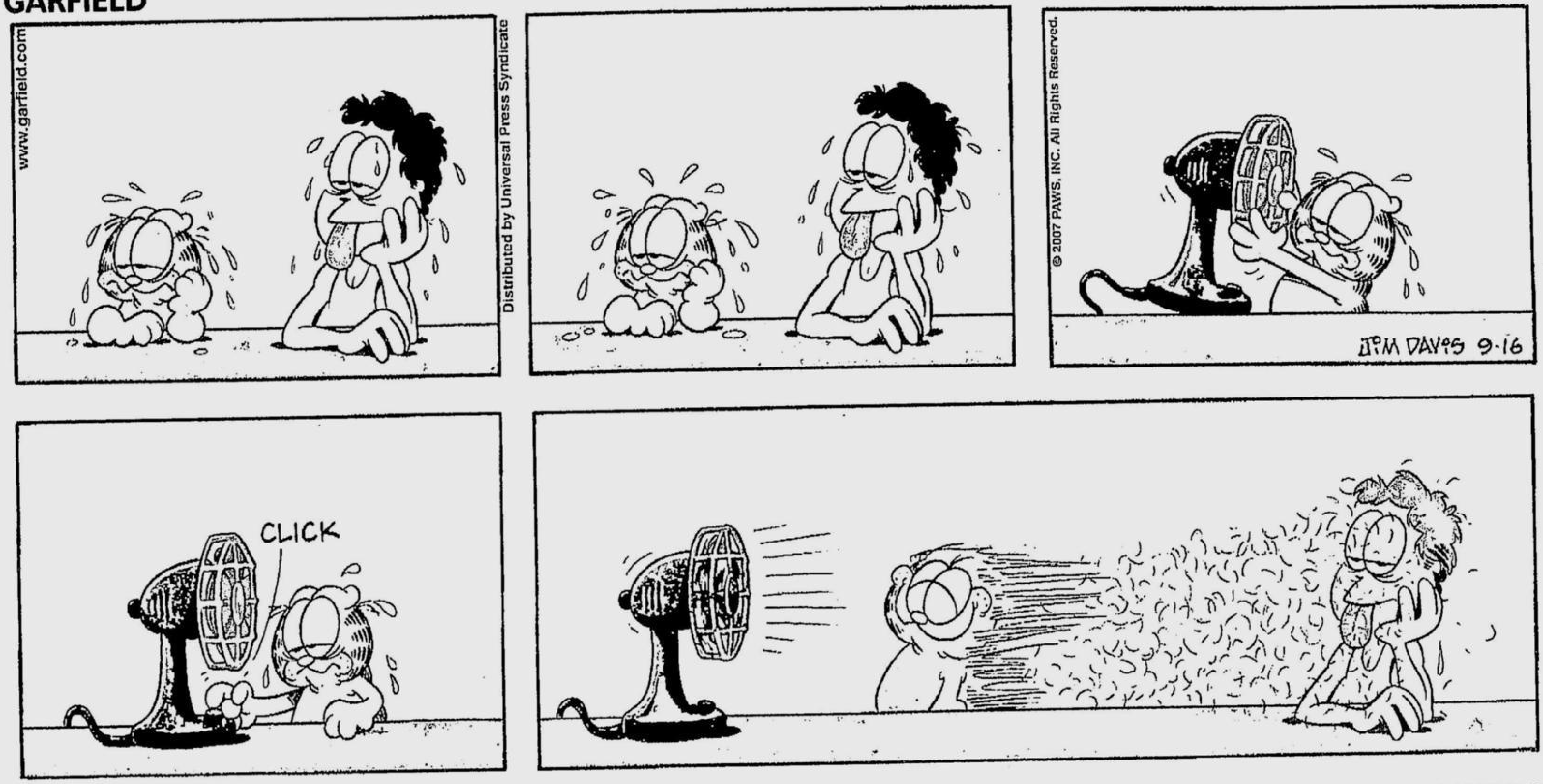
GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS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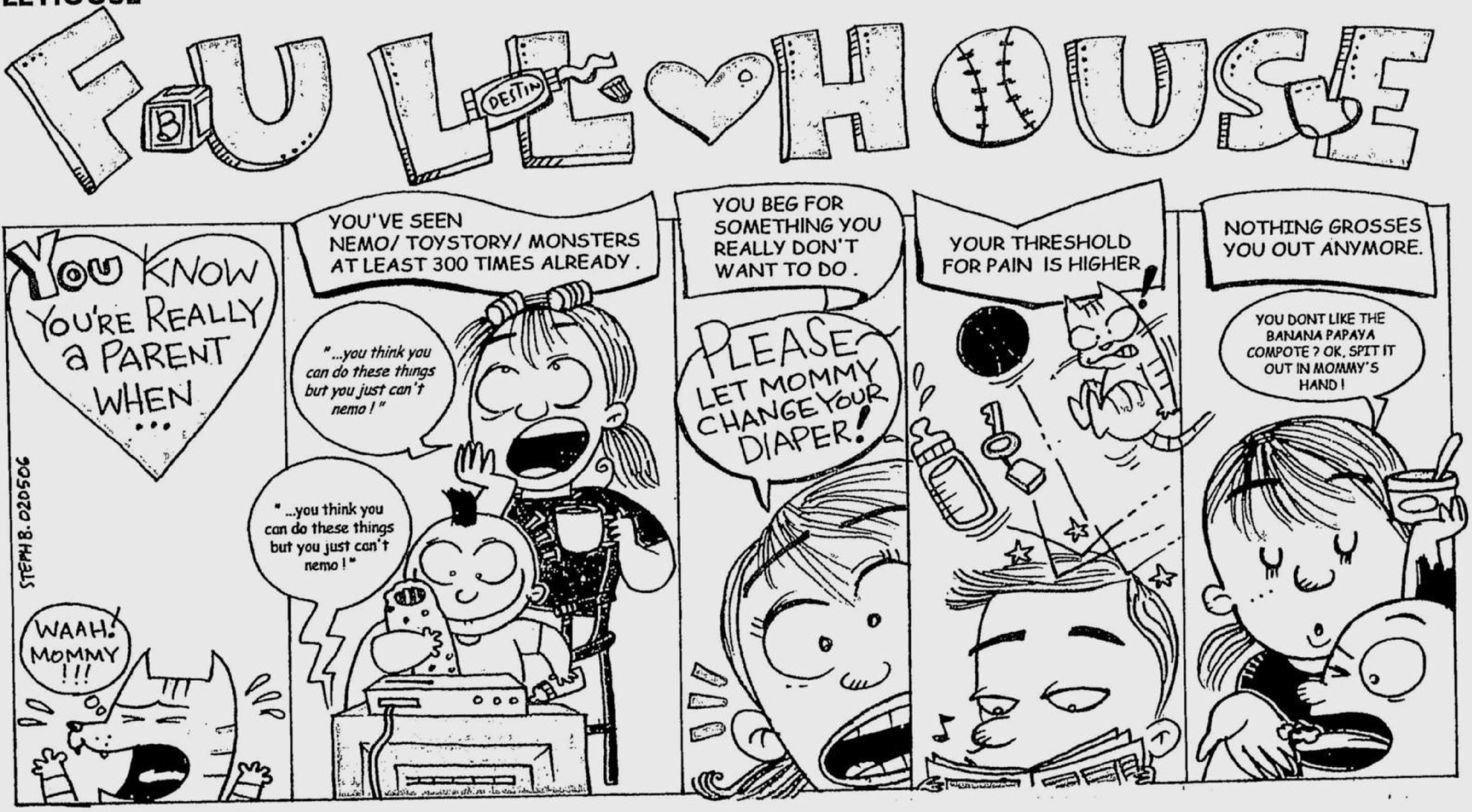
JIM DAVIS 9-16
CLICK

FULL HOUSE

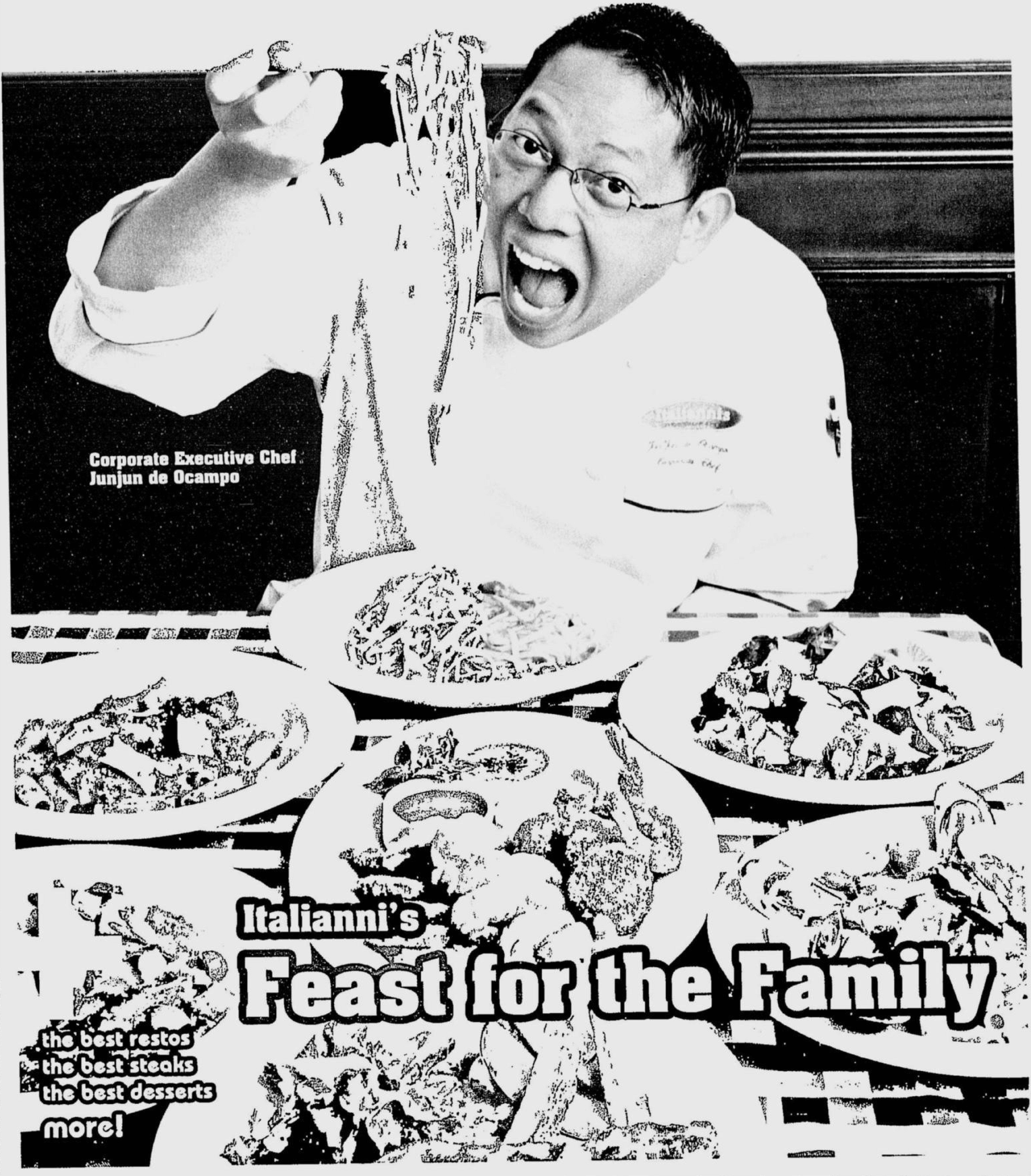
BY STEPH BRAVO


FULL HOUSE
B
DESTIN
YOU KNOW YOU'RE REALLY a PARENT WHEN ...
STEPH B. 020506
WAAH! MOMMY !!!
YOU'VE SEEN NEMO/ TOYSTORY/ MONSTERS AT LEAST 300 TIMES ALREADY.
"...you think you can do these things but you just can't nemo !"
"...you think you can do these things but you just can't nemo !"
YOU BEG FOR SOMETHING YOU REALLY DON'T WANT TO DO.
PLEASE LET MOMMY CHANGE YOUR DIAPER!
YOUR THRESHOLD FOR PAIN IS HIGHER
!
NOTHING GROSSES YOU OUT ANYMORE.
YOU DONT LIKE THE BANANA PAPAYA COMPOTE ? OK, SPIT IT OUT IN MOMMY'S HAND !

sundayINQUIRERmagazine

FREE

September 16, 2007



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By Tere Z. Cruz

A TOSH of Home

The Old Spaghetti House banks on family recipes to become a household word

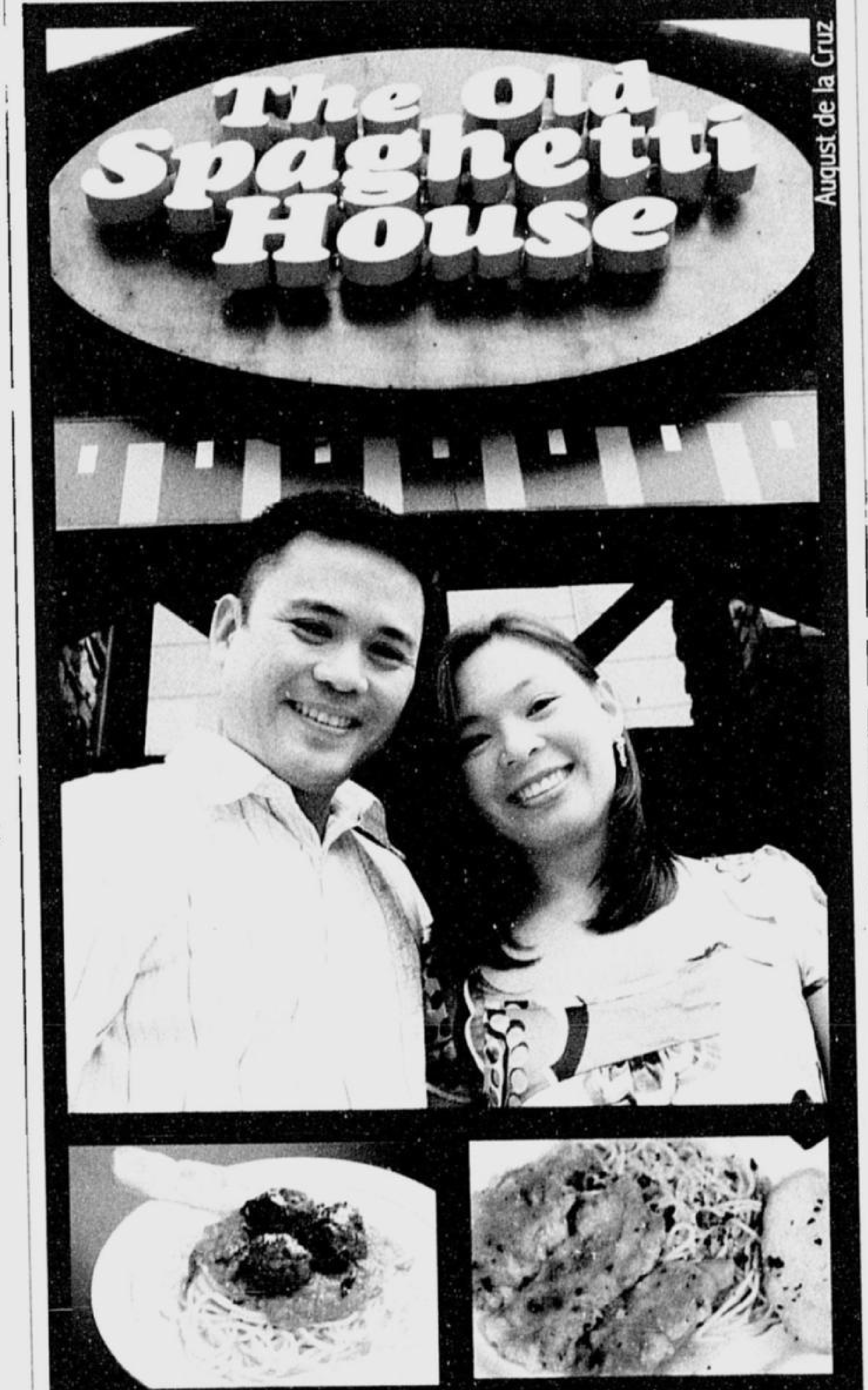
SPAGHETTI has always been a favorite Filipino comfort food, giving us a sense of family and familiarity. After all, who among us hasn't had this pasta dish for our first, seventh, 13th and 18th birthdays?

Its timelessness can be compared to the relationship of husband-and-wife team Lizzie and Chito Guerrero, who owns and runs The Old Spaghetti House (TOSH). The two have gone a long way from being next door neighbors, childhood sweethearts, a married couple and eventually, business partners.

With their background in the food business (she as assistant manager for Chateau 1771 in Malate, he as part of the family that owns Cravings Restaurant), the two decided to put up a small canteen that served as their training ground. That venture eventually led to Grilla in Antipolo, an area that the couple used to frequent when they were dating.

Four Grilla outlets later, the Guerreros thought of expanding their business. Finding space to rent in Katipunan, they decided on "top-of-mind" staples—comfort food that people have all the time. Why not spaghetti?

And why not bring it to a middle ground, thought Chito further. "The funny thing is, when you think 'spaghetti,' it's either you go premium, which means an Italian restaurant where you spend a lot, or you go to fast food chains. We wanted a middle ground, where diners can enjoy the same food quality as high-end restaurants, without the expensive tab."



August de la Cruz

Comfort food: Chito and Lizzie Guerrero offer up spaghetti with meatballs and Mama's Chicken Piccata (above, right)

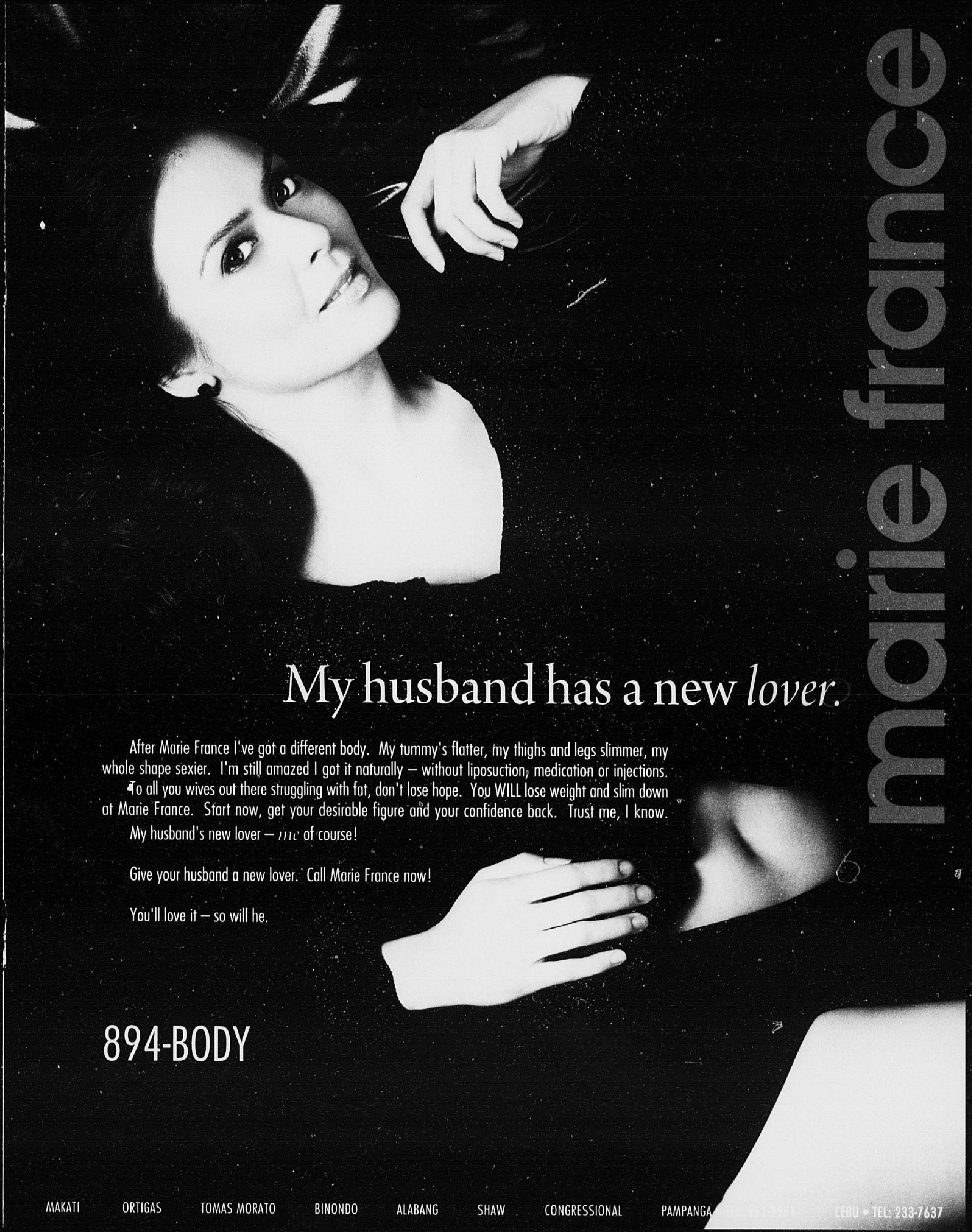
The venture eventually became a family affair, with hand-me-down traditional family recipes finding their way into the menu. This is a cooking family, after all, Chito's mom Annie Pascual-Guerrero being the founder of the Cravings Group of Restaurants and the Center for Culinary Arts. Lizzie's side of the family made its contributions as well, and to date, the menu at The Old Spaghetti House reads like a family almanac: there's Tita Ev's Vietnamese Garlic Spaghetti, Tita Wewi's Oriental Spaghetti, Mama's Chicken Piccata, Tita Nenette's Eggplant Parmigiana, and Mommy Annie's American Baked Spareribs and Parmesan Crusted Fish Fillet.

And like family, the prices are friendly, with the dishes ranging from P75 to P150 each.Says Lizzie, "When we say affordable, it doesn't mean we scrimp on the ingredients. This is home-cooked food, cooking the way we do in our house. So if we use olive oil and white wine at home, we also do so in the restaurant."

The family touch extends to the interiors, with diners made to feel like they're visiting grandma's house with its old tables, tiffany lamps, antique wooden panels, and period furniture.

That homey ambience coupled with good food and affordable prices has apparently worked. TOSH, now on its fourth year, has 16 branches in Metro Manila and will soon be opening its largest branch in Robinsons Place, Ermita this October. TOSH in Robinsons Otis, Nagtahan will open its doors in December. •

For its fourth anniversary celebration, TOSH is offering the "4 Plus 1 Spaghetti." Any order of four spaghetti dishes gets another spaghetti dish for free. Promo runs from Sept. 20-22. For details, call 687-6630 or 426-TOSH



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My husband has a new *lover.*

After Marie France I've got a different body. My tummy's flatter, my thighs and legs slimmer, my whole shape sexier. I'm still amazed I got it naturally – without liposuction, medication or injections. To all you wives out there struggling with fat, don't lose hope. You WILL lose weight and slim down at Marie France. Start now, get your desirable figure and your confidence back. Trust me, I know.

My husband's new lover – *me* of course!

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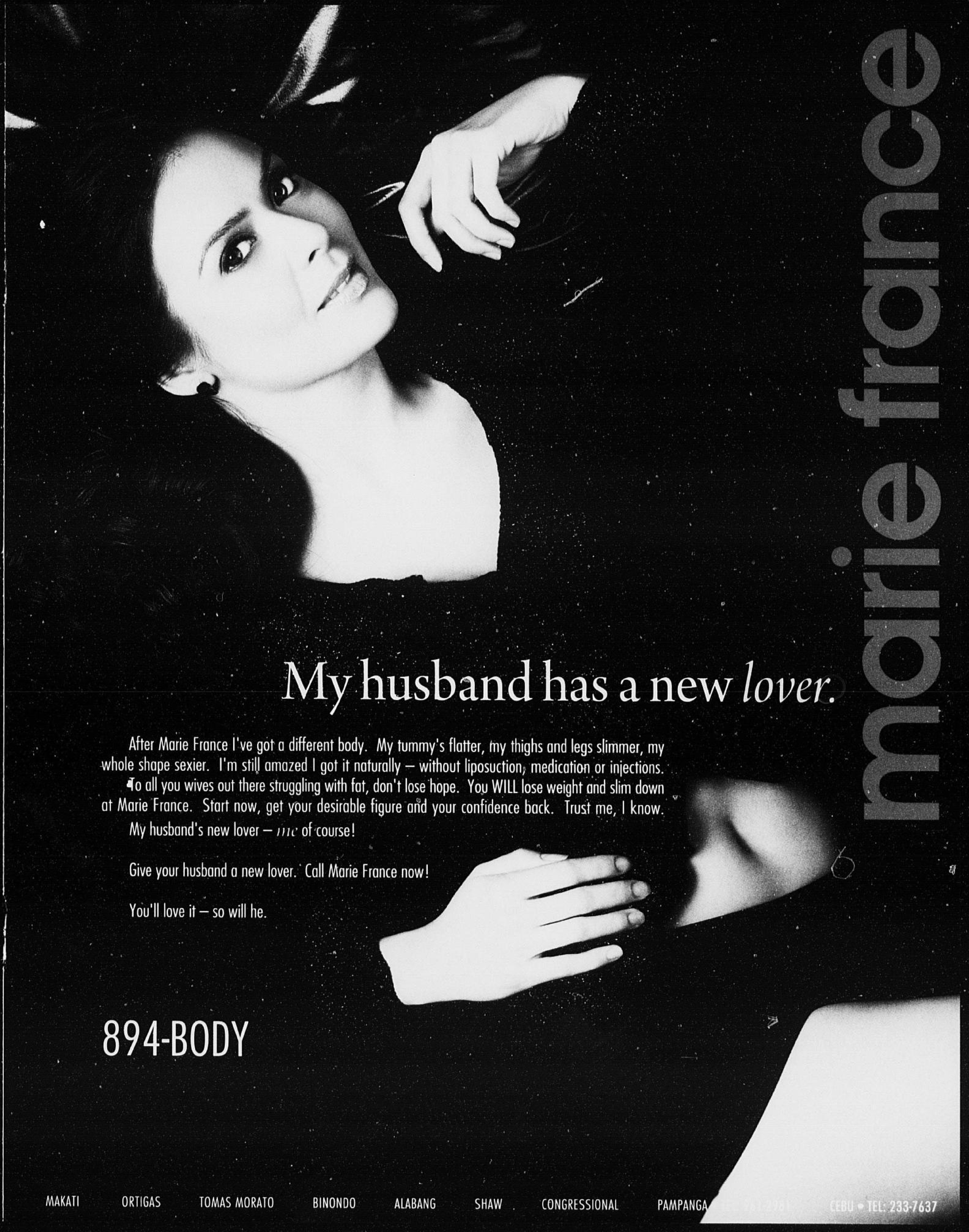

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You'll love it – so will he.

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Text and photographs by Margaux Salcedo

Proudly Filipino

Our food holds some of the world's best flavors. Here are five city-based restaurants that serve some of the best Pinoy dishes we've tasted

Aristocratic ambiance: table setting at La Cocina de Tita Moning

IF art is a reflection of life, food is a reflection of culture. Filipino food is rich, loud in taste and a mix not only of Chinese and Malay influences, but of Spanish and Mexican cuisines as well. I still believe that our food holds some of the world's best flavors, which makes me all the more proud to be Filipino! Here are five Metro Manila restaurants that serve some of the best Pinoy dishes around:

Abe

The Kapampangans are arguably the Philippines' best cooks, so it comes as no surprise that Abe, which capitalizes on Kapampangan specialties, has become a favorite among Filipinos and foreign diners. A charming nook that is an ode to artist Emilio Aguilar Cruz, father of restaurateur Larry Cruz of Cafe Adriatico fame (among other restaurants), Abe captures the spirit of Filipino friendship and good times. The house specialties remain to be those that hail from Pampanga, such as the *Binukadkad na Plapla*, a deep fried whole fish whose meat is artfully flipped away from the fish spine, served with *balo-balo*, a Pampangeño specialty of fermented rice and shrimp. Another house specialty is the *lengua*, which is thicker than at other restaurants, making for a more filling serving.

Abe is one of the few restaurants that have successfully presented Filipino food in an upscale setting without doing fusion cuisine. The menu is unabashedly straight up Filipino and we love it all the more just for that.

Abe. Serendra Circle. Bonfiacio Global City. 856-0526.

O Kitchen

O Kitchen is a well-kept secret of Libis. Hidden in the compound where the Padre Pio chapel is located, just a little past Shopwise, the restaurant serves the recipes of private caterer Offie Benavides. Around for the past seven years now, this restaurant has survived and made its mark in the industry strictly by word of mouth. The result is a cozy little restaurant where the owner herself welcomes you into the place, cooks your meals and steps out to chat with you for a bit. Her menu is quite similar to Abe's but at half the price, with hardly anything on the menu for over P200. Also with Kampampangan roots, Offie's *kare-kare* is superb, her *balo-balo* perfect with dried fish, never going overboard on saltiness. She also has a *turon leche flan* dessert that is a fun mix of crunch and cream.

O Kitchen. 188 E. Rodriguez, Libis.633-7958. 0917-815-0822.

Kamayan

Tried and tested since the '70s, Kamayan is still the most reliable Filipino restaurant out there. It is an introduction to both our food and culture, setting the scene for an amiable and relaxed meal (*kamayan* means "to shake hands" in greeting, and to eat with one's hand). The room is also filled with beautiful music not from CDs but from live singers who serenade you with both classic Filipino ballads and modern day festive songs as you enjoy your meal. It also has a lengthy menu with the best of Filipino foods, including crispy crablets; a seafood platter that has crabs, prawns, mussels and squids; spicy Bicol express; *kare-kare*; and, of course, the fiesta staple, the *lechon* (roast pig). Make sure you enjoy all this with fresh mango juice and cap everything off with *halo-halo*!

Kamayan. 47 Pasay Road. 815-1463/ 843-3604.

La Cocina de Tita Moning

Take a trip back in time to mid-century Manila as you enter the home of the aristocratic Legarda family. Guests are treated to a few sips of ginger tea with *queso de bola* toast al fresco and given a tour of the house where one meets family patriarch Don Alejandro Legarda prior to sampling the recipes of his wife, Doña Ramona Hernandez Legarda, more fondly known as Tita Moning.

The love that this couple has for each other is apparent in the display of their pictures in the different rooms, including one taken on their golden wedding anniversary. It was clearly a home of love as much as it was of stature.

The glow that welcomes you is also the magic touch of grandchild Suzette Montinola, who has opened the doors of the Legarda mansion to the world. Suzette has also preserved the recipes of Tita Moning, and has created an all-Filipino menu that, true to their family tradition, is

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Oodles of Noodles (and Memories)

Pancit Malabon, palabok, luglog, habhab, molo, batchoy, mami, efuven... Every other province has its own specialty

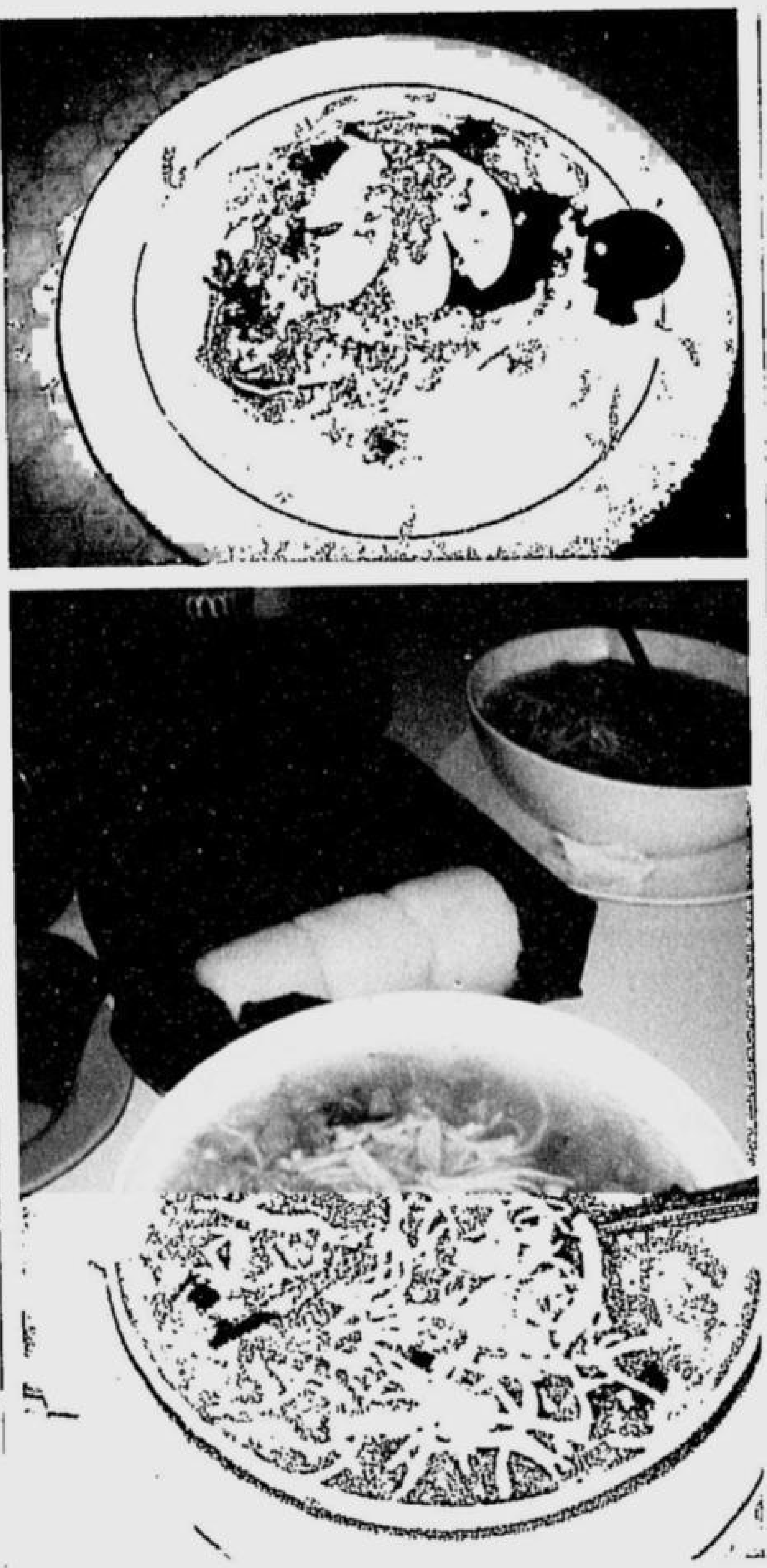
Text and photographs by Michaela Fenix

MY earliest memory of *pancit* was not my *lola's* cooking but Ma Mon Luk mami. The plus was that Ma Mon Luk was there himself. After I had wiped out my bowl of chicken mami, watching the noodle man expertly cut the noodles for each order then spoon out just the right amount of broth, the man that was in the huge photo near the stairs gave me a lollipop then pointed to his facsimile and chanted, "Ma Mon Luk, Mami King."

The Ma Mon Luk I remember was the original outlet in Chinatown. And one restaurant in Binondo was where my father always bought pancit *canton* whenever he was in the area. The pancit would always arrive hot and I would salivate as the cone-shaped packaging—banana leaf and newsprint bound by several rubber bands—was unraveled and the still steaming noodle dish was poured on the serving plate.

The packaging isn't quite the same, but the Aristocrat pancit canton approximates the flavor of my father's Chinatown pancit. It also has abundant *sahog* or assortment of ingredients that come with the noodles—shrimps, slices of pork, fish balls, chicken liver and gizzard, cabbage slices, julienned carrots, *chicharo* (snow peas). The noodles are perfect, brownish, never overcooked but certainly not *al dente*.

It is pancit Malabon that has successfully branded the town's specialty noodles. Years ago, I assigned myself on a food trip through each Malabon noodle restaurant. Nanay's was the first restaurant visited, its noodle version a bit wetter than the others. "Nanay" is unmarried but she is mother to several nephews and nieces.



Special: Pancit Palabok (top), Batchoy

A place that simply called itself "D'Original Pancit Malabon" served a noodle dish that was a bit drier than Nanay's but not outstanding. The owner showed me a photocopy of a story written years ago about her grandmother who founded the restaurant. What I recall from the article was that the Spaniards closed the restaurant for a while, and when that time frame was mentioned, it did give credence to their claim of being "D' Original."

Finally we came to Rosie's, quite well known in Metro Manila because it has a branch at the Philippine Trade and Training Center grounds. I like Rosie's version and ate it with camachile cookie, a less rich butter cookie shaped like the camachile fruit. The branch, however, is like a *carinderia* and I wish the place were cleaner.

My *pancit* Malabon hankering is always readily appeased by the Pancit ng taga Malabon outlet on Pasay Road in Makati and the version of my sister-in-law who is from the place.

Pancit Malabon is elsewhere known as *pancit luglog* or *pancit palabok*. I've always been asked what the difference is between a *luglog* and *palabok*. I once thought that *luglog* uses bihon noodles and *palabok*, the thicker rice noodles. But having gone through several provinces, I've finally accepted that the two are interchangeable.

In Metro Manila one of the best pancit *palabok* is at Via Mare and for pancit *luglog*, it's the one served at the lobby of The Peninsula Hotel Manila.

On a trip to Marilao, Bulacan I was privy to how the pancit *palabok* was assembled. The secret is in the sauce, which was already prepared at both places from basic ingredients of broth and shrimp juice, flour or egg for thickening and coloring from annatto (*achuete*). At Nena's Pancit Palabok, pig's brain was added to the sauce, poured over rice sticks and garnished with slices of egg and chopped green onions.

At Ka Yoying Palabok, Yoying Nagbalon showed us the pancit assembly. To the boiled bihon, she added ground pepper, fried garlic, shrimps that had been fried, colored with annatto and then ground, the *palabok* sauce and shredded smoked fish (*tinapa*). Then another layer of bihon was placed on top of all that. Liquid fat was poured over, then *patis* (fish sauce), calamansi juice, pepper and finally, a topping of what is called *chicharong bigas*, rice fried in sheets then cracked into small pieces and available in the province.

My favorite will always be the *pancit habhab* in Lucban, Quezon. Made of brownish *miki* noodles, when it's at its simplest, there's just the noodles with a little *sayote* flavored with Del Monte vinegar given to you on a square banana leaf. It gets its name from how it's usually eaten—sucking out the noodles from the leaf. Today, other versions are made richer with chunks of *lechon kawali* in the mix, just like the one offered by Buddy's Pancit Lucban.

It is in Iloilo where noodles are a major part of the cooking. When Ilonggo pancit is mentioned, *batchoy* comes to mind, egg noodles in a rich broth flavored with *guinamos* (shrimp paste), specifically the one from Tipauan town in Estancia, with slivers of pork and innards, white shrimps and crushed chicharon. Deco's at the La Paz Market and Ted's in the downtown area (and at the malls) are the best places to have *batchoy*.

Pancit Molo originated from the former

(continued on page 12)

Foodies' Delight

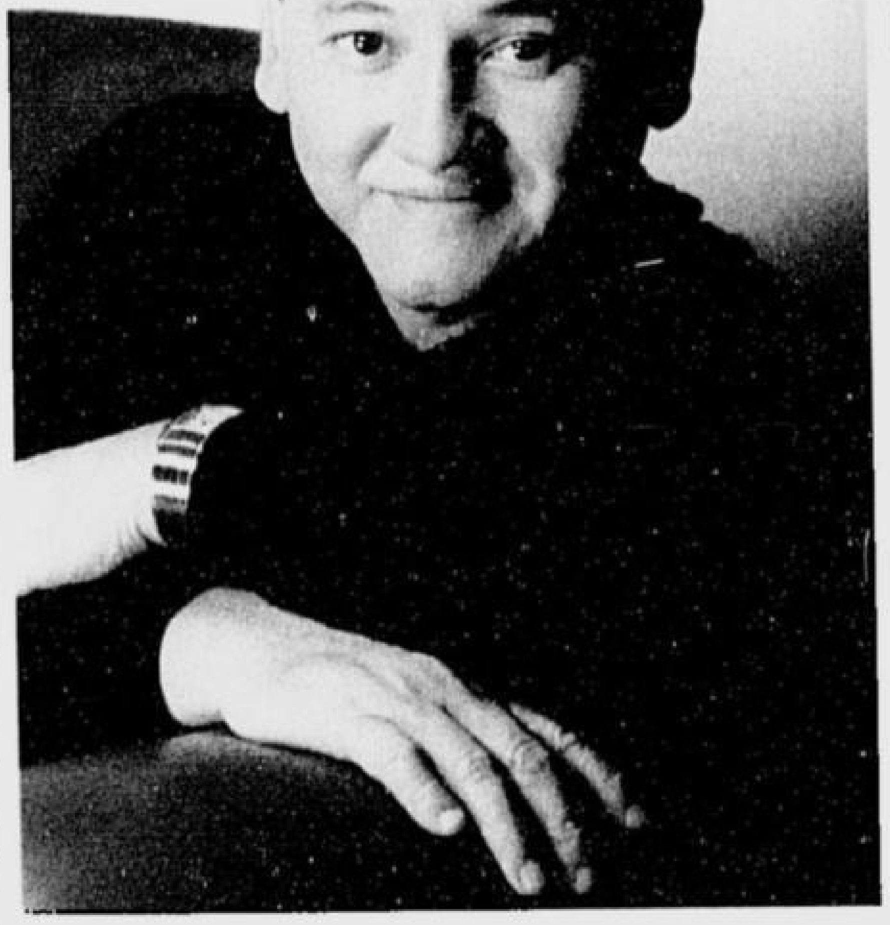
By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

Everyone has a favorite dish that brings back sensory stirrings or memories of good times spent with friends and family. It is also an affirmation of how food is both basic need and luxury

Rico Hizon, *BBC anchor*
"My favorite food is my wife's (Melannie's) delicious, juicy, sweet, home-made, Filipino-style spaghetti. The ingredients include Nestle cream, sautéed ground beef and pork with garlic and onions, salt and pepper. Mix the sauce and noodles, top with quickmelt cheese and bake until the cheese melts! Made in Singapore. *Ang sarap*!"

Arthur C. Yap, *Agriculture Secretary*
"I love to eat. I cook and I love to experiment. Native chicken, vegetables, fish and crustaceans are on top of my list. I love cooking with coconut milk, tomatoes, olive oil, garlic and herbs. Native chicken soup, seafood-based pasta, stewed meats and grilled and sautéed seafood are my favorites. Lately, the quality of food in the supermarkets' produce sections has improved dramatically, so I do my marketing there. At least once a month, I visit Farmers' Market in Cubao and the wet markets at Commonwealth, Pasig, Marikina and Boni just to see what's new or fresh.

Pacita U. Juan, *CEO Figaro Coffee Corp.*
"Spicy peanut sauce noodles—*Ma jiang mian*—which I get in an obscure noodle house in Shanghai. I also like Vegetable Biryani in Queens restaurant on Jupiter St., Makati."



Richard Merk, *singer, owner, Merk's Bar Bistro*
"My favorite is my mom's (Annie Brazil) *adobo*. She lives in New Jersey, so the only time I can have it is if she mails it to me. She cooks a mean *adobo*. The best ingredient in it is her love."

Marivic Rufino, *artist and businesswoman*
"I love salads and desserts. I go to the Manila Peninsula lobby for the Caesar's Salad with piano music, and Sugi for the radish salad. For a bit of decadence, I like Bizu's Macaron de Paris and Trio's panna cotta with caramel. I also love chocolate cake. The ultimate high for me is Tuescher's champaigne truffle, a rare treat, with Cristal."

Chot Reyes, *coach, national basketball team*
"If I'm feeling American, I'll start with my son Joshua's roasted garlic spread, then my wife Cherry's special Caesar Salad, to go with my best friend Butch Antonio's killer roast beef. If I'm feeling local, it's Max's fried *lumpia* and Grillas' *pochero* and *balut*. If I want Japanese, then my good friends Arben and Celda Santos' kobe beef. For my seafood fix, it's Guavas' *tilapia*."

Mikee Romero, *CEO, Harbour Centre*
"I love home-cooked Italian and Mediterranean dishes prepared by my wife. When out of town, we enjoy the food at Antonio's, especially the *foie gras terrine*. It is similar to the Parisian style. The authentic Thai food of Muay Thai restaurant in Quezon City is also the best."

Cristina Gonzalez-Romualdez, *entrepreneur and councilor, Tacloban City*
"My favorite food is *arroz a la cubana*. It's ground beef with raisins and tomato sauce served with fried bananas and fried eggs. I have it with rice, of course. My mom and grandmother make the best kind. But a lot of good Spanish restaurants also make it well."

Chito Macapagal, *spokesperson, Unilever*
"My favorite dishes are *paksiw na lechon* and barbecue. I like them because they are prepared by my mother. But for me to have a taste of them, someone has to travel 120 kilometers to Cabanatuan and back—or my mom would have to bring them to me in Manila."

Noel Cabangon, *singer*
"Japanese food is my favorite. I don't go to any particular place, although I go quite often to Sushi-ya and Teriyaki Boy. Sometimes, I have the buffet at Shangri-la Plaza or Kamayan. I like Japanese food because of its freshness and sweet taste. It's not oily, doesn't have MSG and is healthy." •

Text and photographs by Anton Diaz

Top 10 Awesome Restaurants of the Philippines

More than just serving gourmet food and the right ambiance, these restaurants take the overall dining experience to a higher level

Perfect Pampanga: Claude Tayag's Bale Dutung

WHAT makes a restaurant awesome? Some would say great food and the right ambiance. However, "great food" is subjective and varies with each person's experience and background. To be considered awesome, a restaurant has to take the overall dining experience to a higher level. That means food that leaves an indelible mark on your taste buds, an experience that imprints lasting memories in your mind, and an ambiance that carves out a special place in the heart for you to share with other people.

Every restaurant in this list has been carefully chosen. Each serves gourmet food with the freshest ingredients, and combines nature elements, artifacts or a sense of history in its overall ambiance. Simply put, these restaurants have a story to tell that is spread via word-of-mouth. I can proudly say that these restaurants are found ONLY in the Philippines.

Kubli Springs @ Kinabuhayan Café, Dolores, Quezon

The road to Kubli Springs is literally the road less traveled, and when you do get on it, you'll be glad you decided against taking your sedan car. Flashlights, candles, mobile phones, and the moon are the only sources of light. Occasionally, they may put up Christmas lights connected to a portable battery source to make the place special. You'll find yourself in the middle of a forest, surrounded by boulders, a spring at your feet and a clear starlit sky overhead. You sit on rocks and makeshift benches, savoring the aroma of steak being grilled on the spot. Ah, this is the perfect time to play the acoustic guitar for a sing-along with the *barkada* without fear of disturbing anybody.

For P500 per person, you get fresh salad with flowers, grilled steak, Jay's special rice, and a fruit platter. The meal ends with a *lambanog* and a special roast of *barako* coffee. For drinking, there's fresh mineral water from the mountains. Somehow, you'd wish the night would never end.

Antonio's in Tagaytay

Dining at Antonio's is like entering a magical portal to a world where any food you choose is worth raving about. The service is that of a six-star hotel where you don't have to worry about anything. Even going to the restroom is a chance to appreciate nature and its beauty. The positive energy in the place encourages conversation and bears witness to thousands of memorable life stories.

You won't mind waiting for your food because you know it's being prepared to perfection. The real flavor of the meat and other ingredients stands out without the sauce overpowering its taste. Any wine selection seems to match the food you order. My favorite in Antonio's includes the Salad with Foie Gras, the steaks, sea bass, and the soufflé dessert. I envision our silver wedding anniversary at this place because of the food, service and its enchanting garden.

Ugu's Pottery Garden Restaurant, Tiaong, Quezon

It remains a secret place in Tiaong because Ugu never advertises and there are no road signs. Even the neighbors don't realize that such a place exists. At Ugu's Pottery Garden Restaurant, the entire place is a labor of love, with the entire family designing everything from the huts, the garden's layout, the pottery and the food concept.

Ugu is known for such dishes as *Kulawo* and *Lato*. *Kulawo* is charcoal-grilled banana heart with a smoky flavor that tastes like tuna, while *lato* is seaweed in vinegar. Both are traditional Filipino dishes that you seldom find in Metro Manila. It is home-cooked Filipino food served on Ugu's signature pottery. I do hope it remains a secret.

Isla Naburot, Guimaras

Isla Naburot resort is like wine—the older it gets, the more exotic it becomes. Electricity is supplied by solar panels that can only support the incandescent bulbs in the room. Even mobile phones can seem superfluous as there are no charging stations nearby. Your itinerary revolves around swimming in the clear beach, playing *sungka*, and spending quality time with the family.

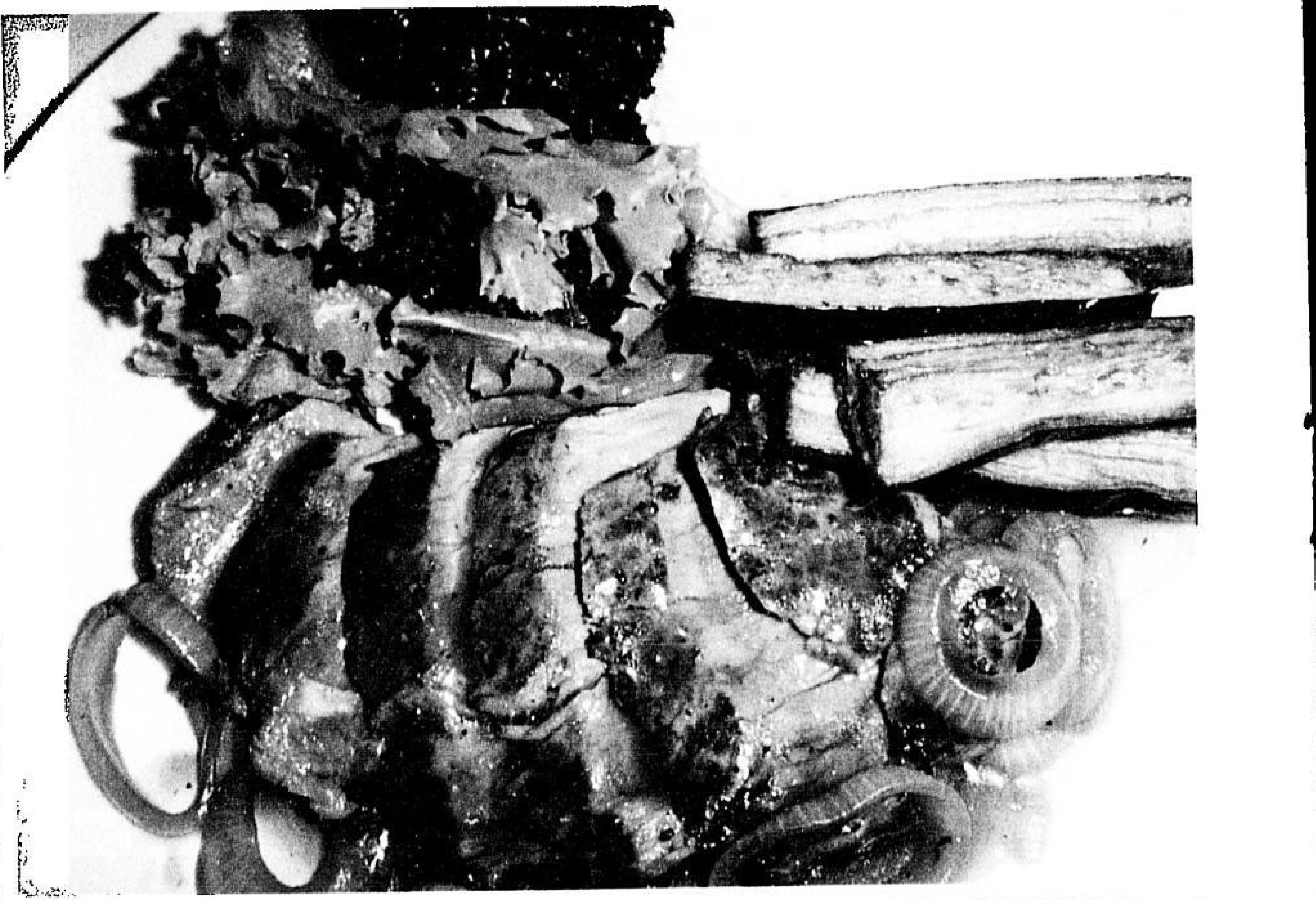
The main attraction is doing nothing and eating gourmet Filipino dishes prepared the traditional way. Fresh seafoods are patiently grilled to lock in their natural juices. Meals are served with home made *sinamak* vinegar. Fruits are abundant, especially the famous Guimaras mangoes. The taste of the food is enhanced by the open air environment. It is a foodie heaven and I can't wait to go back next summer.

(continued on page 10)

By Reggie Aspiras

Staking My Name on Steaks and BBQs

Why wagyu wags my tail and how barbecue is different from simple grilling.



Favorites: Duo's Bistek Tagalog (top), Tsukiji's Ohmi Wagyu Beef, for a "butter-knife beef" experience (right)

SPEAKING of personal favorites and of steak cuts I've tried, I remain hung-up on Tsukiji. I have not found a place that serves beef that tickles my love for meat more.

This is where Ohmi Wagyu Beef imported direct from Japan, the official beef of the Japanese Imperial Household, can be had *yakiniku* (grilled) style.

"Wagyu" means Japanese cattle, of which there are four breeds: black (Tajima), brown, polled, and shorthorn. These types of cattle are best known for their intense marbling characteristics, superior flavor, tenderness and juiciness, thus their high market value.

All types of Japanese beef are Wagyu, but not all of them are Kobe. *Kobe-gyu* refers to beef from the black *Tajima-ushi* breed of Wagyu cattle that is raised according to strict tradition in Hyogo Prefecture, Japan. Kobe is the capital of Hyogo Prefecture.

Truth be said, there are times when we just can't have wagyu—not because we ever tire of it but because our pockets simply can't sustain it!

So other beef places for me include Duo, where I go to enjoy Bistek Tagalog. For heartier chunks of beef, there is Balducci's and the Fire Place at the Hyatt.

Barbecues are another story. It's funny though how the term is so often misused and misinterpreted.

In a strict sense, grilling is done over fire by direct heat, searing the outside while keeping the juices inside. The process is similar to the crusting or browning of bread. Barbecue, on the other hand, is neither a cooking device nor a dish as many perceive it to be, but rather the process of cooking meat at low temperatures for long periods of time.

Today though, the term barbecue is applied to anything cooked on a grill or even in the oven.

My favorite barbecues: Joel Torre's (JT's) Manukan) and Tony Boy Escalante's Inasal. Prince of Jaipur's Skewer Hut and Reyes Barbecue where the old-time Aristocrat barbecue is served. And how could one leave out Ineng's and Country Side? •

Reggie Aspiras writes the column "Kitchen Rescue" for the Inquirer. A bestselling author, she runs The Reggie Aspiras School of Culinary Arts. E-mail her at raspiras@inquirer.com.ph

Photographs by Ernie U. Sarmiento

Dining well and living large

How to dine at Italianni's: Think Italian flavors, American portions and casual Pinoy get-togethers. Stir well and serve

Homey: Family pictures and wine bottles give the place cozy appeal (above). Manuud serves up Frito Misto, one of Italianni's new dishes (right)

QUESTION: When's the best time to dine at Italianni's?

Answer: During a crisis, when money's tight and dining out seems a superfluous option. That's enough reason for the folks behind this American franchise to throw caution to the wind and go all out to please its diners.

Says Jean Paul A. Manuud, Italianni's director for operations: "We turn things around when there's a crisis. Instead of scrimping on ingredients in a bid to lower prices, we raise the bar to beat the competition. During times of crisis, people go for value. We figure that giving diners the best we can offer during hard times would emphasize that Italianni's offers value for money. We want to show diners that we value them. There are other ways for us to survive the crisis; internal controls, for one."

Such philosophy has stood Italianni's in good stead these past 11 years. From its original location at the old Greenbelt building in Makati in 1996, it has since expanded to nine branches: in Libis and Tomas Morato in Quezon City, at Greenbelt 2 and Glorietta 4 in Makati, at SM Mall of Asia in Pasay, SM Megamall in Mandaluyong, at Alabang Town Center, Greenhills and Gateway, Cubao. A tenth branch, at the Trinoma Mall in Quezon City, just recently opened its doors, while Branch No. 11—at Bonifacio High Street in Taguig—is in the works.

The chain's American character has contributed to Italianni's success as well, says Manuud. "We embrace the Western culture and that's why diners love our huge portions served with American flair and the casual dining atmosphere. That's why we serve food family-style; the servings are meant for sharing. We also use a more personalized approach and have trained our staff to talk to our guests."

Manuud, who came in as part of Italianni's second batch in 1997, observes that Filipino diners have matured in taste, becoming more global and adventurous in their choice of food. Being more travelled, they now have higher expectations in terms of food quality and service. That's the constant challenge, he adds, "how to go beyond heightened expectations."

Judging from their repeat business, Filipino diners go for a combination of food, service, ambiance and organization. As for food, Manuud observes that overall, "Filipinos love dishes that are tasty and flavorful, but healthy at the same time. *Gusto natin yung masarap, pero ayaw nating tumaba.* We count calories."

Fortunately, he adds, Italianni's is perceived to be serving healthy food, mainly because of its salads. "Eating salads used to be a chore, something you had to do because it's good for you. Not anymore. At Italianni's, we make eating salads a pleasurable experience. We innovated the practice of adding fruits into the salad instead of just mixing the greens with dressing. Our Sicilian Chicken Salad is a bestseller, and it has mangoes and grapes in it. So now our salad sales have increased ten-fold."

Aside from the Sicilian Chicken salad, their other bestsellers are angel hair pomodoro, a vegetarian pasta dish, chicken *piccata*, Venetian steak and prawns, and the spinach and artichoke *formaggio*, reveals Manuud. "We serve Italian-American dishes, the type cooked by Italian immigrants at the turn of the century and served at the Little Italy in New York."

Although it has a list of regular specialties and house favorites, the chain has started offering new dishes every three months, a

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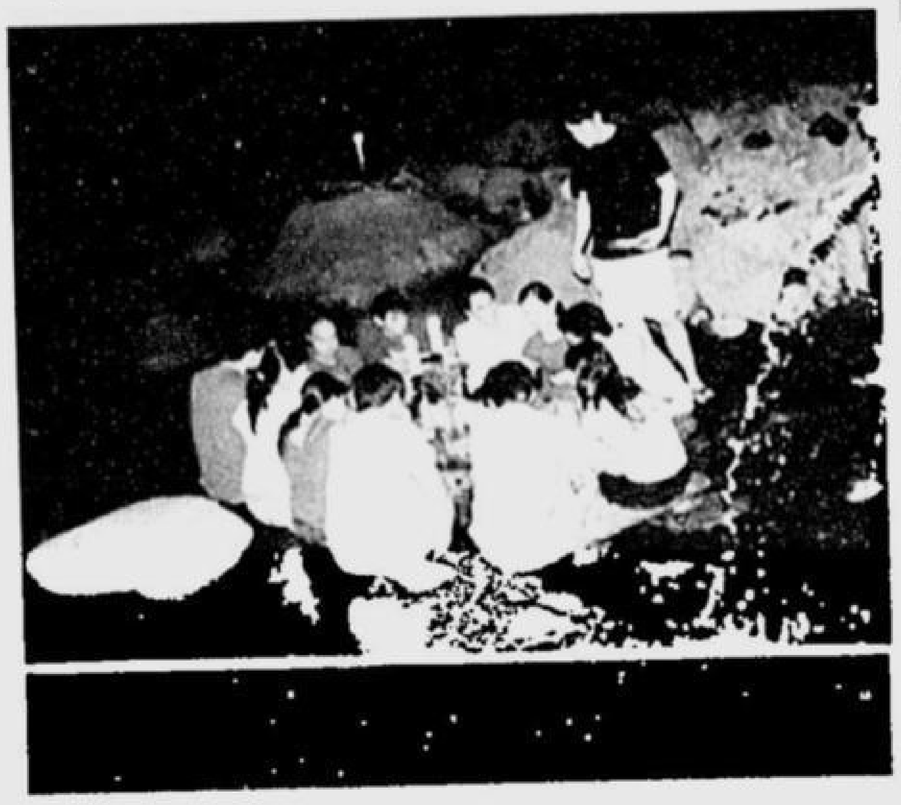
Top 10 Awesome Restaurants... (from page 7)



La Cocina de Tita Moning, Manila
As you enter the gates of this old mansion, you can't help but feel transported to a different era inhabited by the Old Rich. You are welcomed with drinks and pica-pica in the patio, before being given a mini-tour of the place, where antiques and turn-of-the-century designs are evident in the living room, bedroom and especially the bathroom.

It is a treat to enjoy Spanish food cooked from recipes handed down from generations. You leave La Cocina raving about its paella and its bread pudding. The former could rival the paellas in Manila's Spanish restaurants. The latter tastes like bread leche flan that melts in your mouth. The service is slow but sure. What's important is that they serve you with a smile and exert every effort to make the experience memorable. Our La Cocina experience was way back January 2005, but I've never forgotten it since.

Kusina Salud, San Pablo, Laguna
We need to give credit to Kusina Salud for making the Viaje del Sol travel route popular. It is the "Sonya's Garden" of San Pablo, Laguna but even better because of its wide selection of gourmet dishes. Occasionally, you can chat with Nina and Chef Paul Poblador about the story of Kusina Salud. The place seems to smile back at the camera, with its odd pieces of furniture and accessories fitting in harmoniously with styles from other era.

The best time to go is breakfast—go at 9 a.m. and use the place as your jump-off point to explore Laguna and Quezon. I long for the *hamonado*-style *longganisa*, fried *adobo* flakes and *bangus* belly for breakfast. Buffets are served on special occasions but I still prefer to order from the ala carte menu. Massage service is available and would be perfect if you make this your last stop before heading back to Manila.

Vieux Chalet, Antipolo
Operating for more than 20 years now, Vieux Chalet remains a mysterious place. The house cum restaurant on top of a hill in Antipolo rewards diners with an awesome view of Manila, especially at night.

What keeps me going back to this place is the passion with which Susan Hassig prepares the food. You'll never forget the taste of the homemade pasta, the freshly baked bread and the varieties of homegrown cheese. Some people go to Vieux Chalet to taste its refreshing lemongrass drink or to indulge in its version of the Osso Bucco. This is our favorite hangout if we want to escape and eat good gourmet food.

Claude Tayag's Bale Dutung, Pampanga
You've never tasted Pampanga cuisine until you've eaten in Claude Tayag's Bale Dutung house. This is perfect for those long lunches with friends, where you don't even notice the hours passing by. Diners are greeted with frozen baby cologne-scented towels and steamed peanuts that bring back memories of one's childhood years. The entire house is a showroom for Claude Tayag's creative and artistic brilliance.

Mr. and Mrs. Claude Tayag will serve you personally, proffering simple *kapampangan* dishes presented artistically. They will also entertain you with the history of Bale Dutung. My favorite dishes here include the catfish with *buro* (fermented fish) and green *mustasa*, and Pampanga's version of the paella. The meal ends with a simple Paradiso dessert made of smoked *ube*, *camote* and *macapuno* on sweet carabao milk pastillas. After the meal, it is so nice to just laze around the house and chat up Claude Tayag before saying goodbye.

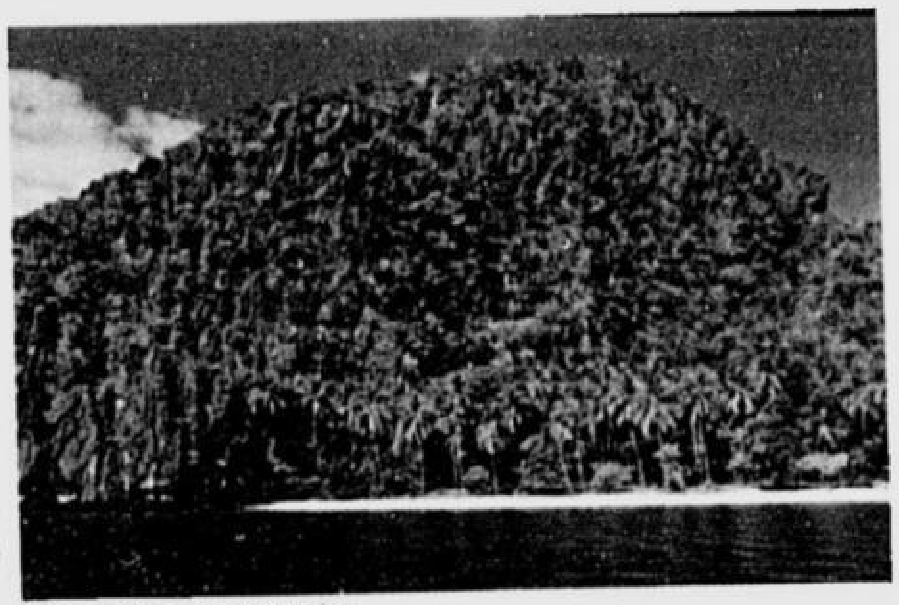
Charley's in Lipa, Batangas
I fell in love with the place after seeing the beautiful horses at Leviste's Equestrian Farm in Lipa. Till then, I'd only seen the tired horses in Baguio and Tagaytay and never imagined seeing such thoroughbreds on Philippine soil. Lunch or dinner is courtesy of Les Roche-trained chef Popit de Leon who is passionate about cooking his foodie creations either in his Makati condo or in Charley's on weekends. Popit uses fresh herbs from Charley's garden on all foods served at the farm. Diners might even get a personal tour of the farm by Charley herself after the meal.

Unfortunately, the place recently closed its doors to out-of-town diners. Popit now cooks exclusively in his Makati condo. This is a simple tribute and thank you for becoming part of our foodie memories, accompanied by a wish that hopefully the place opens its doors again.

Entalula Island, El Nido, Palawan
Imagine having an exclusive picnic with gourmet food on a white-sand island far better than Boracay. Entalula island in El Nido is definitely a bit of paradise that you can enjoy privately for lunch or dinner. Everything is set up for you, and you can request exactly the food you like. Your imagination sets the limit on how creative you want the experience to be.
It is definitely worth saving up for and reason enough to go back to El Nido resorts. When you book an El Nido vacation, make sure to reserve the island for your lunch or dinner date. Next time, I'd have dinner here with just my wife and lay down after in the pristine sands with limestone cliffs as backdrop. •

For more information about these restaurants, please visit www.ourawesomeplanet.com.

Anton is the publisher of Our Awesome Planet (OAP), one of the top 10 blogs in the Philippines. OAP is a photo food and travel blog about Manila's food and travel secrets shared through word of mouth. He is known as a food critic and has recently been passionate about running marathons. Currently, he works and loves his job as an IT manager in P&G Philippines.

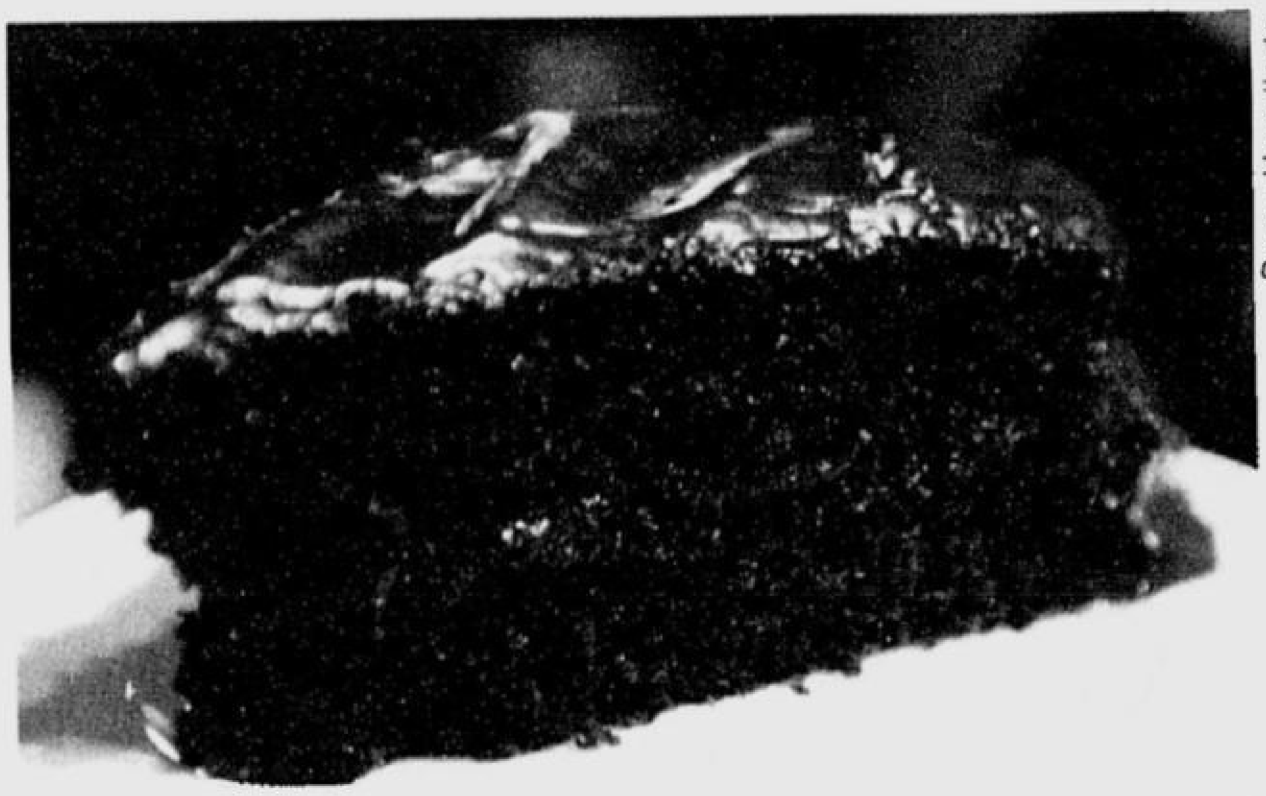


Paradise: El Nido

By Dorothy Ferreria

The Sweetest Things

Life can be a piece of cake when you're having dessert.



Heavenly: Hungry Pac's Chocolate Cake

Romy Homillada

Defined as a sweet course served at the end of a meal, desserts don't necessarily have to be a pastry or a slice of cake. They can be a sherbet, a mousse, gelatin, a cookie or fresh fruits in season.

A good dessert provides the right balance in a meal. For light dishes like a clear soup or a salad, the dessert can be on the heavy side: bread pudding with caramel sauce or a slice of cake with frosting. Heavy meals like a Chinese lauriat are best finished off with a light dessert, perhaps an almond jelly or mango sago.

Desserts also serve to cleanse the palate. A hearty stew with strong flavors goes well with ice cream, sherbet or fresh fruits in season.

Born with a sweet tooth, I always check out the dessert station first in a buffet spread. Here's my list of favorite desserts and where to get them. Bon appétit and enjoy every forkful to the fullest.

Lemon Torte by Roshan

When you want meringue torte that's light and citrusy, you might want to try Roshan's frozen lemon torte.

A rather plain-looking cake covered with a generous amount of whipped cream, this treat is made with layers of not-too-sweet meringue studded with just the right amount of walnuts. The lemon filling, more like a curd, is made from fresh lemons and provides just the right tartness, a refreshing alternative to the usual chocolate or mocha cake. *By order through phone numbers 631-7786 and 0917-8336286.*

Chocolate Cake at Hungry Pac

Right beside Mercury Drug at Ash Creek in Greenhills is an outlet of Hungry Pac, which is known for its crinkles and chocolate cake. I think I go to Ash Creek as a convenient excuse to buy my supply of the softest and darkest chocolate cake, with its thin layer of dark fudge frosting that's not too sweet. They have single-serve portions, if you want to be sure you won't overindulge in this heavenly treat.

Hungrypac outlets are located at Glorietta 4 Food Choices, Alabang Town Center, Trinoma Food Choices, SM North Edsa's The Block 3rd Floor, SM Mall of Asia at the Main Mall 2nd floor, Ash Creek (Madison Street corner Ortigas Ave.). Or call 7360002 and 0917-8360092 (look for Cynthia Ang) for orders.

Tender Trap's Baby Parmesan Ensaymada and Macadamia Rum Cake

Bite-sized ensaymadas that are bready and not cake-like, wickedly topped with creamy butter and grated parmesan cheese are best taken with coffee, tea or hot chocolate. Tender Trap's version has lots of parmesan cheese trapped inside and out, serving as the bread's crowning glory.

Another favorite is the macadamia rum cake: layers of butter cake drenched in intoxicating rum syrup. The filling and icing are made with whipped cream, while the cake's frosting is made truly special with generous helpings of coarsely chopped macadamia nuts.

Tender Trap Pastry and Coffeeshop is located at #681 Lee Street, Mandaluyong City. For inquiries, call 722-9844.

Zamboanga's Best Kept Secret

Two layers of soft meringue, similar to *brazo de Mercedes*, are filled with a cheesy, creamy yema filling and frosting and topped with slices of ripe mangoes. This is the famous mango jubilee from Zamboanga. Another concoction worth trying is the ube cake which has real ube folded into the super soft deep purple cake. The frosting is like ube jam (*haleya*).

Both cakes are by order. Look for Nida at (062) 991-6397.

Kooky and Luscious Cake Shop

Chocolate and orange are two distinct flavors that marry well when combined into a cake created by Chef Bambi Sy Gobio. Christened Voltaire's Kiss, this chocolate cake has a thin layer of ganache made from premium chocolate, and a mile-high ultra smooth chocolate mousse literally kissed by a thin sliver of homemade candied orange peel. The aroma is enough to give one a sugar rush!

Another family favorite is "dementia," an intensely flavored mousse cake made from Belgian chocolate and available in regular and sugar-free variants.

Kooky and Luscious shop: Ortigas Avenue, near the entrance of North Greenhills (#338 Ortigas Avenue, San Juan, tel. number 7051512); 3rd Floor, Cybermall, Eastwood City in Libis; along Paseo de Roxas, Makati.

Quan Bakeshop in Bacolod for Napoleones

Crispy puff pastry filled with custard made from scratch and finished off with powdered sugar glaze is what napoleones is all about. The crispness of the buttery crust combined with the creamy custard filling is an ideal meal-ender.

Quan Bakeshop: #3 La Salle Ave. Capitolville Subdivision, Bacolod City. Or try its Makati branch at Pueblo on Dian Street, telephone number 833-5843. •

The author owns and runs Dorothy's Cooking School and writes a column for Food Magazine. She has authored several cookbooks titled Dorothy's Cooking School 1 & 2 and From Dorothy's Kitchen. Email the author at dorothyferreria@yahoo.com or at dorothy_ferreria@skydsl.com.ph

SUDOKU

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

			1					
	6		8				5	
2		3				7		6
							1	4
			3	7	2			
8	9							
6		2				9		1
	4				8		6	
					9			

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

9/16

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Answer to previous puzzle

3	2	4	5	1	9	6	8	7
8	7	5	2	6	3	9	1	4
9	6	1	8	4	7	2	5	3
2	5	7	3	9	1	8	4	6
6	1	8	4	7	5	3	2	9
4	9	3	6	8	2	1	7	5
5	8	2	7	3	6	4	9	1
7	3	9	1	2	4	5	6	8
1	4	6	9	5	8	7	3	2

Difficulty Level ★★★★

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Cover: Italianni's Corporate Executive Chef Junjun de Ocampo with new dishes (from right, clockwise) Arugula and Grape Salad, Seafood Rigatoni, Florentine Style Ribeye Steak, Lemon Pepper Shrimp Salad, Rigatoni Bolognese and (center) Frito Misto.
Photograph: Ernie U. Sarmiento
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Proudly Filipino (from page 4)

sprinkled with elegant touches here and there. The fresh *kangkong* salad, for instance, comes with caramelized walnuts. Caramelized bananas are served with vermouth. And the bread pudding is topped with glazed nuts, a classy touch to the delicious dessert Tita Moning was well known for. On your visit, make sure you also take home a bottle of Tita Moning's *queso de bola* spread, which I guarantee you will get addicted to.

La Cocina de Tita Moning. 315 San Rafael Street, San Miguel, Manila. 734-2141/734-2146.

Bistro Filipino

Hip and edgy, Bistro Filipino takes Filipino cooking to a whole new level, with Chef Rolando Laudico creatively marrying traditional tastes with new methods of cooking and presentation.

Bistro Filipino's Salmon on Escabeche Sauce

Laudico's *Sisig* (pig's ears), a favorite bar chow, is delicately enclosed in a crispy rice basket and presented elegantly with a quail egg. Lumpia, a light vegetable snack, is served in a crisp cone and enjoyed with chorizo for added bite. Mongo beans are pureed and served with parmigiano crisps garnished with slow roasted herb tomatoes and crisp *labahita* flakes. For the main course, salmon is not just buttered but served on escabeche sauce while the classic pork adobo is given a make over by pairing it with *foie gras* and glutinous rice. And don't skip the molten chocolate cake with carabao milk (*gatas ng kalabaw*). It's absolutely heavenly.

Bistro Filipino, Net One Building, Fort Bonifacio. 856-0634 / 856-0541.

Oodles of Noodles (and Memories) (from page 5)

Chinese enclave of Molo. It isn't made up of noodle strips but of small dumplings like ravioli. Unlike *batchoy*, there are no pancit Molo specialty restaurants, but at a branch of Panaderia de Molo near the Central Market in Iloilo City, this noodle dish is served.

Perhaps less known as an Ilonggo noodle is pancit *efuven*. It's egg noodles cooked in the usual pancit *guisado* (sautéed noodles) way. One can get this from many of the restaurants in Iloilo.

Those are just some of the pancit offerings throughout the country and I'm sure there are more to be had. After all, it's almost a staple in Filipino households. •

R. Ma Mon Luk, Banawe Avenue, corner Quezon Avenue, Quezon City
Aristocrat's, Roxas Boulevard and Jupiter, Makati
Pancit Malabon restaurants: No exact address but you can ask any resident and they will point you to the places.
Via Mare at Greenbelt 1, Makati
The Peninsula Manila, Makati
Nena's Pancit Palabok, Marilao, Bulacan (044) 641-0153
Ka Yoying Palabok, Marilao, Bulacan, (044) 711-3809
Lucban Miki Factory, Lucban, Quezon
Buddy's Pancit Lucban, Kalayaan Avenue, Makati, 899-5991 and 93.

Michaela Fenix is a food writer, editor of cookbooks, and cuisine researcher.

No Sleepless Nights from Seattle

Competition from Seattle-based Starbucks and other coffee giants doesn't faze Figaro Coffee CEO Pacita Juan, who only sees the sweet rewards of cultivating this bitter brew

By Pennie Azarcon-dela Cruz
Photographs by Jim Guiao Punzalan

Juan: Savoring a cup of local brew teamed with pastries from Figaro (right)

THANKS to the family business in steel manufacture and export, Pacita Juan traveled the world early on and learned the art of drinking and selling coffee way before international franchises scalded local players.

Well, selling was something she was good at, confesses this Hotel and Restaurant Administration graduate of the University of the Philippines. "Back in grade school I'd sell stuff to my classmates—chocolates, roses, stationery. I guess it was the art of convincing people to buy what I was selling that got me into business."

In college, Chit tossed her love of coffee into this entrepreneurial brew and teamed up with friends to open a small coffee shop, "at a time when it meant a small place serving breakfast, light meals and real brewed coffee."

Drafted into the family business two years later, Chit found herself travelling to steel parts exhibitions all over the world, where she started percolating ideas about her favorite drink.

"When we started Figaro in 1993, you had to go to hotels to enjoy the brew. We wanted a place where coffee was affordable but in an ambience reminiscent of European cafes," recounts this well-traveled entrepreneur. "We wanted coffee so good people will sing its praises," she adds, explaining Figaro's operatic name.

"Sharing the fine art of enjoying coffee" was a mission she and her partners nursed patiently through the early years when coffee was still widely regarded as the drink of choice—but only during wakes and interminable business meetings. Selling their first batch of freshly-roasted coffee during Christmas bazaars convinced them of the untapped market for good coffee.

"We are a coffee drinking people," observes Chit. "The market, initially businessmen who met over coffee and housewives who cooled their heels while shopping, soon expanded to include the younger set who looked for sweeter and colder drinks that they could nurse while people-watching. Coffee has become a social drink in place of alcohol or spirits."

Indeed, coffee has quite suddenly become the hippest drink around, with iPod-wired teens guiltlessly pouring a day's allowance into a frothy mocha java. The café culture has found perfect partnership with call centers, resulting in 24-hour coffee shops where the over-caffeinated can hang out and recharge.

Chit explains away this resurgent coffee-drinking habit: "The Pinoys just had to have a choice. Time was when socials meant going to bars and parties. Now any occasion to sit, relax and have a cup of fresh coffee is socializing. And the Pinoy is basically social. We love to eat and drink. Notice how all family pictures are mostly over food?"

True, some international coffee franchises have given local coffee shop owners a lot of sleepless nights, but that hardly fazes Chit. Having international competitors, she observes, makes the game even more challenging. "It raises the bar for everyone in the field so that it is the consumers who emerge as winners. They are given a myriad of choices while prices remain reasonable."

Going head to head with giants isn't easy, but Chit remains confident that Figaro can hold its own. "Knowing the local scene and having started early in the game has helped us keep going. It's good to have competition in any business. It keeps you on your toes and makes you want to always improve your products, your service and your whole business strategy."

In fact, she adds, competition has been good for local coffee varieties as well. "We have been talking about Philippine coffee to make more people appreciate it since we established the Philippine coffee board in 2002. Now, consumers have a greater awareness that local coffee is good and at par, or sometimes even better, than imported coffee."

Not to forget the allied businesses that have flourished along with the Pinoy's coffee-drinking habit, points out Chit. "Pastries, cakes and other accompaniments to coffee have also improved in variety and taste over the years. A lot of hobbyists have turned their passion into full-scale businesses to complement this coffee-drinking trend."

Indeed, she notes, sweet things have come up from this bitter brew. •

Cookie master

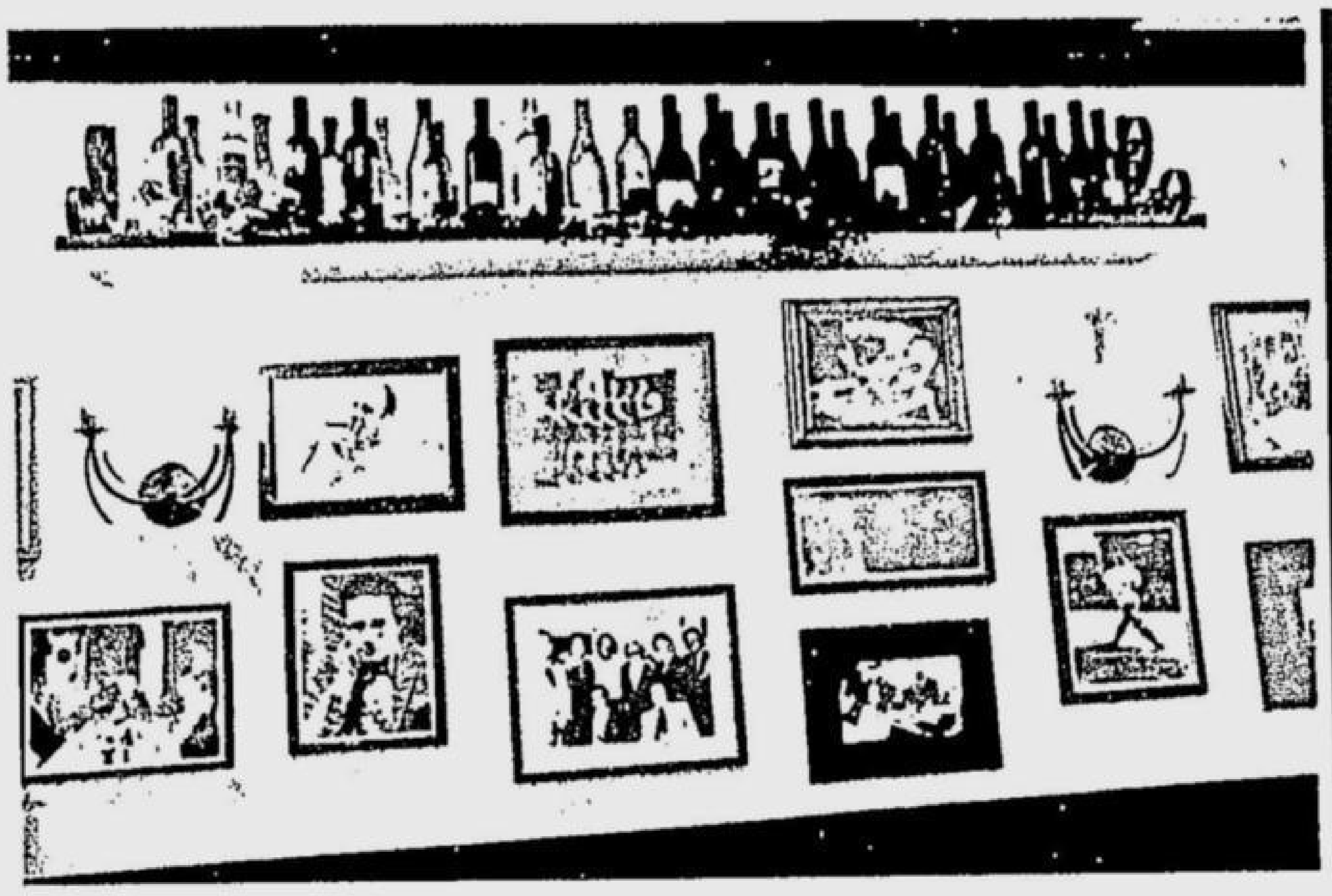
DEBBI Fields began baking cookies at age 13 and turned out to be very good at it. Now better known as Mrs. Fields, she has turned cookies into a global venture and marketing phenomenon that started from California in 1977.

Thanks to the Pinoys' sweet tooth, the Philippines is now part of the Mrs. Fields empire, boasting 19 kiosks. This year, Mrs. Fields steps up the sweet-tooth offensive by launching Mrs. Fields Cookie Cafes, the perfect setting to relax and enjoy their freshly-baked products.

The first Cafe opened at the Trinoma mall last month, offering, among other goodies, Mrs. Fields Cookie Cakes with their personalized messages.

Mrs. Fields is also gearing up to launch its exclusive Cookie Club soon. The club entitles members to various perks and privileges inlcuding discounts, gifts, complimentary drinks and cookies. Indeed, for Mrs. Fields, times have never been sweeter. •

Dining well and living large (from page 9)



Character: Italianni's is Pinoy, American, and Italian all at once

welcome innovation that keeps diners from getting bored. For this year's last quarter, the new dishes are Frito Misto, Lemon Pepper Shrimp Salad, Arugula and Grape Salad, Rigatoni Bolognese, Seafood Rigatoni, and Florentine Style Ribeye Steak.

The push to innovate rests mainly on Junjun de Ocampo, Italianni's corporate executive chef who, on top of developing new dishes, also manages and trains other chefs. This UP Home Economics graduate also trained in New York at the Culinary Institute of America, and has worked at the Tamarind Grill, the Richmonde Hotel and the Mandarin Oriental Hotel.

To conceptualize new entrees, he eats out a lot and moseys around the markets to check available ingredients and the latest food trends, says De Ocampo. Of the dishes he's developed for Italianni's, his personal favorite is the bacon-wrapped Shrimp Alfredo. "That's pasta with cream sauce topped with shrimp and asparagus wrapped in crisp bacon. The blending of crisp with salty and creamy flavors is just fantastic!" enthuses the 35-year-old chef.

Despite so many restaurants and fine dining places opening these days, the competition hardly bothers Manuud. He shrugs: "We don't think too much about competition. We can't prevent other restaurants from opening, but we can keep stretching ourselves to surpass them. We must compete with ourselves and go beyond what we've already accomplished. In this business, to be number 1, you have to think of yourself as being number 2—so you'll strive harder."

Without realizing it, Manuud may have given away Italianni's trade secret, one that regular diners already know. **PAC**

Figure it out

Napoleones from Quan Bakeshop

235: Amount of calories in a chocolate bar

2,000-2,500: Recommended daily calorie intake for adults

38: Number of Haagen-Dazs classic ice cream flavors

1,385: Number of stores operated nationwide by the Jollibee group of companies, the largest food service network in the country as of June 2007)

250: Number of McDonald's branches in RP

1,543 lbs (700 kg): Weight of largest stir-fry, Guinness World record holder (2004)

476.1 lbs (216 kg): Weight of largest tiramisu, Guinness World record holder (2003)

350 meters: Length of the buffet line in Eastwood City complex in Libis, Quezon City in its attempt to set a world record for longest buffet line in October 2005

190 grams: Average cooked weight of a spaghetti serving consisting of about 85 spaghetti strands

1.5 tons: Total weight of organic and non-organic vegetables (i.e. lettuce, carrots, tomatoes and cucumber) used in the 2006 Baguio Tossed Salad Festival

Compiled by Kate Pedroso, Inquirer Research

Sources: Inquirer Archives, Guinness World Records official website, Haagen-Dazs official website, thecaloriecounter.com, The Old Spaghetti House

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is based on
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you read.

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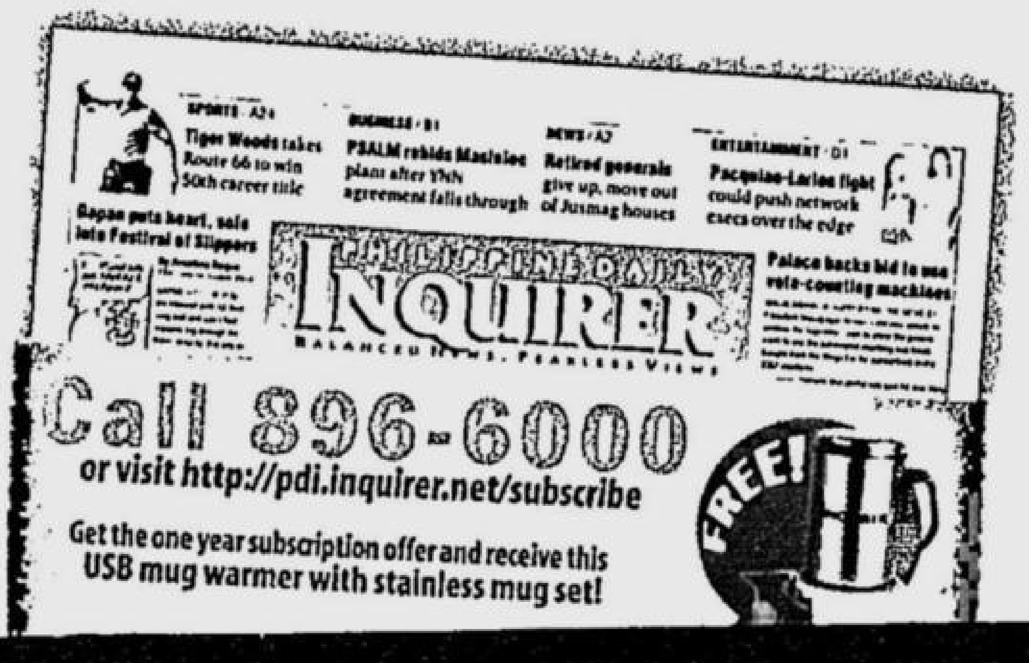

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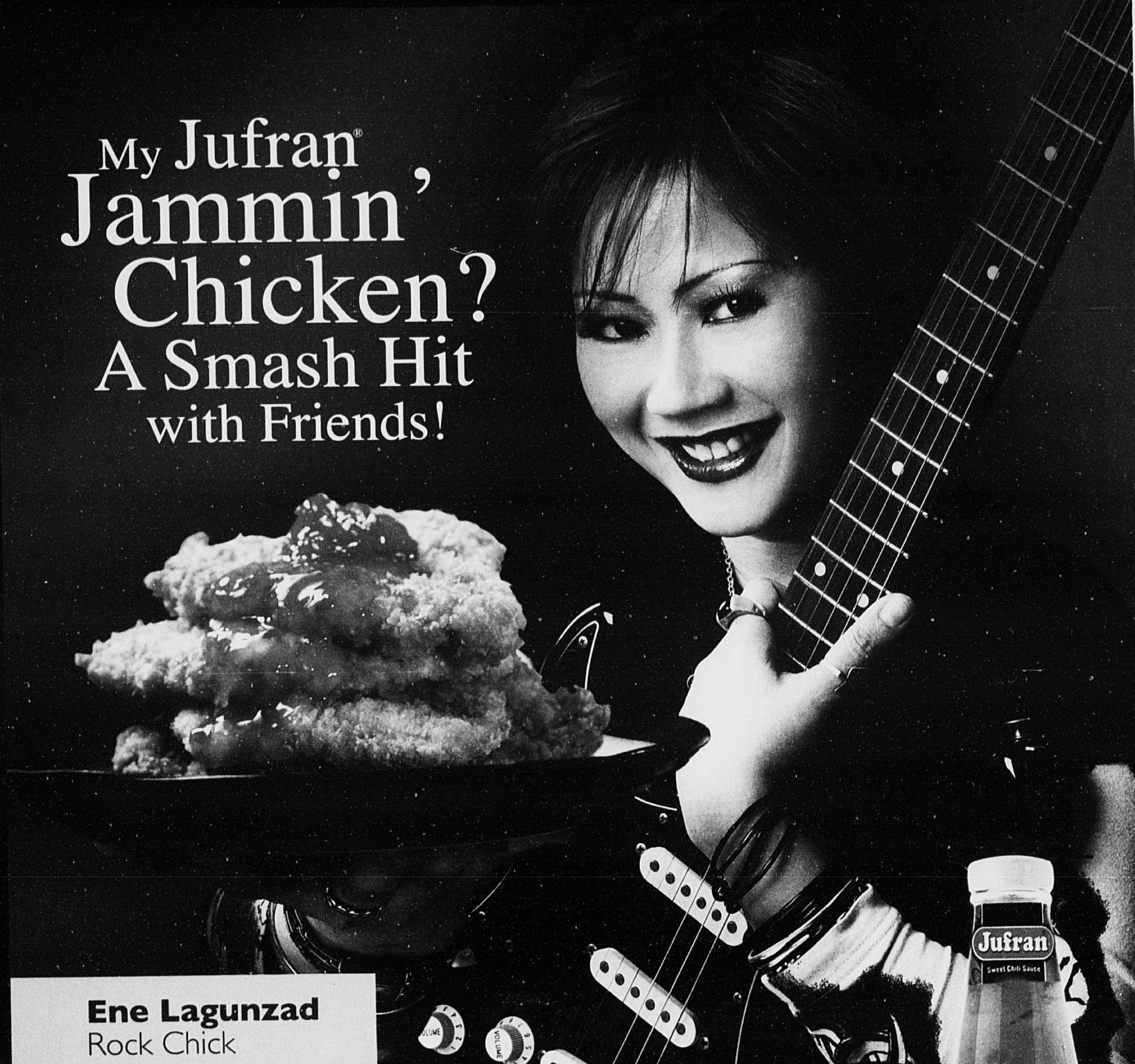

Ene Lagunzad
Rock Chick

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